#### Afghan ex-king to return home

ISLAMABAD (R) - Afghanistan's exiled former king, Zahir-ISLAMABAD (R) — Aighanistan's exiled former king, Lahir Shah; plans to return to his war-devastated country, according to a envoy of his visiting Pakistan. The envoy, General Abdul Wali, the ex-king's son-in-law, whose visit has soured ties between Islamabad and Kabul, was also quoted in a newspaper interview published on Tuesday as calling for a traditional grand assembly to settle the Afghan crisis. "King Zahir Shah will return and will pass through Pakistan on his way to Afghanistan," the Dawn newspaper current Gen. Wali as saving. The red-carpet welcome extended er quoted Gen. Wali as saying. The red-carpet welcome extended to Gen. Wali in Pakistan since his arrival last Thursday has provoked a strong protest from President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government in Kabul, which says he should not have been invited without consulting Kabul. Islamabad has rejected the protest, saying it has no favourities among the squabbling Afghan faction leaders, who along with more than three million refugees, had made Pakistan their home during their 14-year guerrilla war against a Soviet-backed government in Kabu

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجابيزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي.

#### Israelis plan to launch Dead Sea ferry

TEL AVIV (AFP) - A Jewish entrepreneur is planning to launch a daily ferry service linking Israel and Jordan over the Dead Sea this year. A 40-tonne vessel is now undergoing renovations at Jaffa port awaiting the political go-ahead from Jordan, owner Motto Gonen told AFP. "It looks like we should get permission. Both sides are interested in the scheme," he said. It would be on one of the first private projects between the two neighbours to come to fruition since they signed peace and opened their borders last October. Mr. Gonen has two Israeli partners as well as a Jordanian businessman involved in the project. The ship, called Tot's Wife, would take a maximum of 110 passengers from kibbutz Ein Gedi in Israel to the Ma'in hot springs in Jordan. Mr. Gonen is well aware not only of the political problems, but also the difficulties of sailing on the lake. He has operated the only vessel on the Dead Sea for the last 15 years, a marine research ship. It is the lowest spot on earth at more than 400 metres below sea level and temperatures soar above 40C during the summer. The salt concentration is about 30 per cent compared to four per cent for normal sea water. There is no marine life and it is impossible for swimmers to sink.

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Price: Jordan 150 Fils

of peace, is questioned, he said. It also under-

mines human develop-

ment and the peace build-

through global and re-

gional commitment that

the Middle East region

can be rebuilt. The King

highlighted the import-

ance of the Middle East

and North Africa's econo-

mic summit which will be

held in Amman in Octo-

ber in efforts to rebuild

The King noted the im-

portance of administrative

development plays a cru-cial role in achieving that

end, whether in terms of

protection of environment

or investment or strategic

At the conference,

Prince Talal received an

honorary doctorate

awarded to the King by

planning or marketing.

the Middle East.

King Hussein said it is

ing process, he added.

# Israel, PLO set July 25 for full accord

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday set a July 25 deadline for a full agreement to extend Palestinian autonomy across the West

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo announced that they had reached an "understanding" on an outline of the second phase of autonomy: Transfer of civilian powers and army redeployment from Palestinian areas followed by elec-

"An understanding has been reached on main aspects of the interim agreement," Mr. Abed Rabbo told repor-

However, the outline he provided was a rehash of the 1993 declaration of principles for self-rule without dates or clear indications of which areas would be evacuated by the Israeli army.

"Arafat and Peres instructed their delegations ... to enter into intense negotiations in order to finalise the interim agreement by July 25," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

After nearly three hours of talks Mr. Arafat said: "I hope the signing of the agreement will take place on July 25. I hope the prisoners will

be freed as soon as possible." Mr. Abed Rabbo said they had agreed that the interim accord would include a gradual release of Palestinian prisoners. But an Israeli ministerial committee would take

**Boutaleb arrives** with message

AMMAN (Petra) — Abdul Hadi Boutaleb, an advisor to King Hassan II of Morocco

and a member of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisa-

tion Research, arrived in

Amman Tuesday on a

several-day visit to Jordan during which he will deliver

to His Majesty King Hussein a message from the Moroc-

can monarch. Mr. Boutaleb,

who will also take part in the

10th conference of the

academy which will open

Wednesday, said the message

deals with Jordanian-

Moroccan cooperation and

coordination on various

VIENNA (AFP) - An In-

ternational Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA) team beaded by professor Mauri-

zio Ziffereo, in charge of the

Iraq section at the IAEA, is

scieduled to arrive Wednes-

day in Baghdad. The team will hold talks on nuclear

issues with senior Iraqi officials but will not carry out

any inspections, a source close to the agency said.

workers end strike

PARIS (R) — Algerian oil and gas workers have re-

turned to work after a 10-day

strike launched to press the

government to restructure

the energy sector, their un-

ion's spokesman told Alge-

rian state-run radio on Tues-

Algerian energy

IAEA team to

visit Iraq

the decisions, he admitted. About two-thirds of the estimated 6,500 prisoners have been on hunger-strike demanding their immediate

Mr. Peres gave a hint of some substance.

"We have-agreed that in the major Arab cities and in most of the Arab villages there will not be any Israeli installations, neither police nor military

He said there would be "special arrangements" for control of the roads, "again we have agreed in principle, but we have to write it down."

But he gave no dates, which Mr. Arafat had previously insisted on.

"I think we reached an agreement on most of the issues," Mr. Peres said.
"There is still a great deal of work to be done. Some of them we reached in writing, some of them we reached

"The two delegations will start to put everything in writing and in order. We should make a supreme effort to conclude everything in writing before the end of this month, namely on July 25."

"We have made an important step forward and we should continue to work as seriously" to conclude an

The next phase of autonomy, after the Gaza Strip and West Bank enclave of Jericho, which Israel pulled out of in May 1994, is already



British Prime Minister John Major and his Wife Norma outside 10 Downing Street after Mr. Major won (Reuters photo)

# Major wins party elections, reshuffles cabinet today

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister John Major said on Tuesday he would stay in office until the next election after a "very clear-cut" victory over excabinet minister John Redwood in a ballot for leadership of the Conservative Party.

Mr. Major told reporters he was putting the finishing touches to a reshuffle of his cabinet which he would announce on Wednesday.

'It was a very clear-cut decision. The election is now over," Mr. Major said. "It was a clear-cut choice and we have made that choice. The natter is now concluded. "I shall now return to 329 Conservative legislators

Downing Street and will start in the contest for the leadthis evening to reconstruct the government." He said he expected to announce the new cabinet line-up on Wednesday.

"I believe that has put to rest any question and any speculation about the leadership of the Conservative Party up to and beyond the next general election." Mr. Major said. The next election is due by mid-1957.

Mr. Major announced the leadership ballot on June 22 after months of sniping from right-wing opponents who accused him of weak lead-

ership. He won 218 votes from the

ership of the party, compared with 89 votes for John Redwood, the former Welsh secretary.

Eight Conservatives in the House of Commons abstained and 12 spoiled their ballot papers in an attempt to deny Mr. Major outright victory and force a second-ballot with new contenders.

However, Mr. Major handily exceeded the 50-vote margin he needed over Mr. Redwood party rules.

"The message I would give to every Conservative ... is that the time for division is ' Mr. Major said outside his office in Downing St (Continued on page 7)

#### ion. accompanying His Majesty the countries of the Middle were very similar.

nian economic delegation will soon visit France to discuss Jordanian debts to Paris in

Peace means using resources

for non-military means - King

Prince Talal Ben Mohamuad

sive development of the

The World Bank has

estimated that in 15 years'

time the population of

Israel will have ensured

an income as high as the

gross income of the entire

Arab region, he said.

Against such a disparity in

income, the sustainability

Kabariti, de Charette discuss

ties, peace and Iraq situation

infrastructure.

In statements to the press detail. following the meeting, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan was interested in establishing a Jordanian-French dialogue which will include politics, economy, culture and security and to crown this dialogue with signing a partnership deal with the European Un-

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein

said Tuesday that chan-

nelling of resources for

non-military purposes

could be achieved through

the establishment of

peace, noting that a just

and comprehensive peace

can put the entire region

at the threshold of a new

In an address to the

annual Arab conference

on management held at

Bradford University and

read out on his behalf by

His Royal Highness

Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, the King said

the demographic facts in the Middle East make it

incumbent on all con-

cerned not to disregard

the great population

labour and education and

the need for a comprehen-

PARIS (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al

Kabariti on Tuesday met in

Paris with his French coun-

terpart Harve de Charette.

The King focused on

growth in the region.

King Hussein on a visit to France, said an official Jorda-

Mr. Kabariti said his talks with the French minister dealt with the Middle East and North Africa economic summit which will be held in Amman and a conference of the Mediterranean countries which will be held in Barcelona later this year. The two events will be major points in launching cooperat

East and Mediterranean region, he said. Mr. Kabariti said his talks

also dealt with situation in the Middle East, including the situation in Iraq. "I was acquainted with the French position and I outlined the Jordanian view on the way to tackle the present situation and the need to ease the plight of the Iraqi people within the context of international legitimacy," said Mr. Kabariti, who added that the Jordanian and French positions on the Iragi problem

# Gamaa claims attack on Mubarak; Sudan wants Halaib in World Court

CAIRO (Agencies) -Egypt's leading militant group on Tuesday said it had carried out last week's assassination attempt against President Hosni Mubarak and vowed to try again.

Mr. Mubarak, who escaped unhurt, has accused Sudan's Islamic government of masterminding the gun attack on his motorcade as he arrived in Addis Ababa on June 26 for an Organisation of African Unity summit.

However, the Gamaa Islamiya (Islamic Group), which has been waging a violent three-year anti-government campaign in which more than 800 people have died, said it was "responsible for the attempt to assassinate this

Mr. Mubarak bas waged a relentlesss war against militants who want to turn Egypt, the most populous Arab country, into an Iranian-style fundamentalist state.

The Gamaa boasted the south Egypt. death bid still "proves it can strike painful blows against the enemies of God no matter how long it takes" and vowed "attempts to execute God's punishment on this criminal will not cease, God

willing." In a statement, the Gamaa said Mr. Mubarak had taken "the same path in betraying Islam" as his predecessor Anwar Al Sadat, who was assassinated by extremists in

"He has violated the honour and spilled the pure blood of Muslim youth. He has imprisoned the aged, women and children. He has tortured young and old," the statement said.

Cairo has been claiming virtual victory since March over the Gamaa after killing much of its domestic leadership, breaking up a major new cell and continuing its attacks to a few towns in

The group trumpeted that the attack forced Mr. Mubarak "to return panic-stricken to Egypt where he began to babble expressions that showed how he lost his

A week-long media campaign in Egypt pumped up Mr. Mubarak's popularity by presenting him as the victim of a foreign plot and depicting Khartoum as a den of terrorism seeking to destabilise Egypt by supporting mili-

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat A! Sherif, who has repeated Cairo's suspicions that Sudan's gov-ernment was the real power behind the attack, said the identity of the gunmen was a secondary issue.

"Who planned this conspiracy, and who trained these elements?" he said when asked by reporters about an Ethiopian announce-

ment that five gunmen in the shooting were Egyptian. The Gamaa, which said the Addis Ababa attack was its third attempt to kill Mr. Mubarak, said its efforts "to fulfill the law of God against

this criminal will not be

halted.' It called on the army and security forces "and all those who participate with this dictator and his oppressive measures against Islam and Muslims, to repent in front of God and to declare their innocence from all these cursed practices carried out by this

dictator.' Sudan on Tuesday re-newed its demand to take its long-running dispute with Egypt over the desert border triangle of Halaib to international arbitration.

Ghazi Salaheddin Atabani, minister of state in the Fore-

meeting chaired by acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf

ign Ministry, told a news

(Continued on page 7)

that city," Mr. Redmond

said. "As far as we're con-

cerned this current situation

is about as bleak as we have

seen in Sarajevo as far as no

prospects for a solution in

6,000 tonne monthly food

goal for Sarajevo had been

met for June, he added.

"When you only get eight per

cent of what's required into

Only eight per cent of the

# Cabinet extends exemption from customs duties for newsprint

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government on Tuesday decided to grant customs exemption for limited quantities of newsprint for the rest of this year, after granting a similar ex-emption in the first half of this year.

· Total exemption for newsprint from customs duties is a long-standing demand of the Jordanian press, which is straining under a more than 120-per cent increase in the international prices of news-

The decision, which averts a planned increase in the newsstand prices of all Jordanian dailies, was announced after a Council of Ministers

Rawabdeh.

The announcement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the newsprint imports of the establishments which print the Arabic-language dailies Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Al Aswaq were exempted from customs duties. Al Ra'i could import 3,300 tonnes, Al Dustour 2,200 and Al Aswaq 800 tonnes, the decision said.

It said the three establishments in turn have to reflect the exemption on the printing of other publications in their presses. These include political parties' newspapers and other weeklies and maga-

The publishing houses has been lobbying the govern-ment for a total exemption from customs duties for newsprint, pointing out that

from about \$450 per tonne to \$1,100 since May 1994.

The government, which levies a 25 per cent customs duty on newsprint, initially offered a reduction of 50 per cent, but the newspaper establishment said it was not enough to balance the price increase.

With the latest decision, the prices of the dailies will remain the same - 150 fils each — while an increase in advertisement costs which went into effect three months ago will remain unchanged.

In its session on Tuesday, the Council of Ministers approved a memorandum of mutual understanding between the Royal Jordanian and the British Airways to increase the number of flights between London and Amnewsprint prices had gone up man to eight every week.

#### Syria must curb Hizbollah for peace agreement — Israel .N.-Serb tension escalates

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Tensions escalated between U.N. forces and Bosnian Serbs on the Mount Igman road, the lifeline to Sarajevo. where shelling continued on Tuesday as the Red Cross began distributing the last of

In a desperate bid to bring humanitarian supplies into besieged Saraejvo, the U.N. has begun dangerous night missions along the treacherous Mount Igman route which is regularly attacked by the Bosnian Serbs.

Sarajevo came under bombardment Tuesday with periodic shelling of the city centre beginning at midday. Several shells landed with-

in 100 metres of the headquarters of the commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia. On Sunday one mortar exploded in the U.N. compound injur-

ing a total of six people.

Many shells were also exchanged between Bosnian army gunners in the west of Sarajevo and Bosnian Serb

Three mortar bombs landed close to another U.N. base which was hit five days ago. "It was tense in this area

reported from the base itself. The Serbian state Tanjug news agency in Belgrade, quoting Bosnian Serb military sources, said two people including a young girl were killed in a Serb-held Sarajevo suburb on Tuesday during an

On Monday evening Bosnian Serb gunners unleashed a volley of cannon rounds at a U.N. humanitarian convoy bringing 70 tonnes of flour down the steep mountain

with a single heavy mortar bomb and two light tank rounds. Four smoke mortar the peacekeepers' final descent once the convoy was ready to move again, a U.N.

Serb gunners apparently used eight-vision goggles to target the U.N. vehicles in

and humanitarian airlift closed by Serb threat since April, and food shortages looming, U.N. officials had decided to expand their effort over Igman to include U.N. humanitarian aid.

convoy, driven by French and Danish peacekeepers, was the second such aid convoy.

Ron Redmond, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, condemned the Serb

voy bound for a besieged city

and the innocent civilians in

any further aid convoys on the Igman road would be

Three times earlier Monday, rebel Serbs had also attacked U.N. vehicles on the Igman road, prompting peacekeepers to fire the 120-"It's absolutely outrageous mm mortar that France disthat they are attacking a con-

attacked.

(Continued on page 7)

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli cabinet minister said on Tuesday Syria must prevent deadly Hizbollah guerrilla attacks on Israeli troops in South Lebanon if Earlier Tuesday, a 12-year-

Damascus wants to remove obstacles to a peace treaty: with the Jewish state. Hizbollah guerrillas Tuesday killed a pro-Israeli militiaman in a roadside bomb ambush in South Lebanon after a Lebanon girl was in-

jured in Israeli shelling,

security sources said. They said Hizbollah guerrillas detonated the bomb near a patrol of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in the village of Arab Salim in the Israeli-occupied border enclave in the south.

The militiaman died of wounds shortly after he arrived in a hospital in the town of Marjayoun, inside the enclave Israel calls a "security zone," said the sources.

The ambush triggered Israeli and SLA artillery and tank bombardment of sus-

around the village of Kfar Rumman, but no casualties. were reported, the sources

old Lebanese girl was wound-ed when Israeli gunners shelled Hizbollah strongholds two kilometres north of the zone, the sources said.

On Monday, two Israeli soldiers were killed and five wounded in two separate guerrilla attacks, which were claimed by Hizbollah.

In a direct warning to Hizbollah, Israel's army chief said that even one more guertilla operation could cause Israel to attack Lebanese villages, despite U.S.- and Syrian-mediated understandings which have limited fighting in civilian areas since

"Between us and the (Syrians) there exists a sea and an abyss of mistrust," said Health Minister Efraim

"If they ever want to

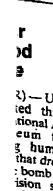
bridge over this, the way they can do this is to stop the operations of the Hizbollah. If they don't do this, the abyss of mistrust will stay at its current width, and it will be very difficult to reach an agreement.'

Syria, accusing Israel of stepping up tension in South Lebanon, said on Tuesday Damascus would not ask Lebanese resistance fighters

to lay down their arms. Army Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak said if Hizbollah continued to use villages to launch attacks on soldiers and Katyusha rocket barrages against northern Israel, the hamlets could become targets of Israeli

assaults. "I am afraid that if Hizbollah continues even one more time, a very different reality will be forced on the residents of the south," he told

reporters. Syria's official daily newspaper Tishreen accused Israel of worsening tensions.



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the Philip s on Oct. 24. is agency re-The official ws Agency ie Philippine Jeophysic<sup>2</sup> al Services (PAGASA) e total solar ur at about T) and will ates and lo SA said that enon will be a Tawi-Tawi kilometres h of Manila. tly seen from e Philippines Baguio City

# Eva Gabor dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) -Actress Eva Gabor, best known for her role as an out-of-place city socialite stuck on a farm on television's "Green Acres," died Tuesday. She was 74. Gabor died at 10:05 a.m. at Cedars-S tai Medical Centre from respiratory distress and other infections, hospital spokes-man Ron Wise said. She entered the hospital on June 21 after falling and breaking her hip, Mr. Wise said. enthusiasts.

for about four hours," U.N. spokesman Major Guy Vinet

exchange of fire.

track just outside Sarajevo. Peacekeepers responded shells were also fired to mask

the dark, U.N. drivers also use night-vision and descend the mountain without head-With Sarajevo's airport

weekold military resupply U.N. peacekeepers transported 62 tonnes of flour for Sarajevo residents on Saturday night. Monday night's

the city in a given month, people are going to really start feeling the effects of this - malnutrition, disease, other illnesses," Mr. Redmond said. The Serbs warned the United Nations on Monday that

## Iraq turns to former Soviet bloc friends

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq is increasingly turning to its traditional allies in the former Soviet bloc to build support for lifting the five-yearold U.N. economic embargo.

The contacts between Iraq, Russia, China, Bulgaria, Cuba and Vietnam mark the start of the success of our campaign aimed at breaking the embargo," the ruling Baath Party daily Al Thawra

Baghdad is seeking pledges for business contracts hoping they will step up pressure for an end to the sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

When a Bulgarian delegation returned to Sofia last week from a visit to Baghdad, Deputy Prime Minister Kiril Tsochev said Iraq had agreed to reimburse its \$1.512 billion debt to Bulgaria with shipments of oil.

Economic cooperation accords worth around \$700 million were also signed with Iraq, although the embargo has to be lifted for them to take effect. Mr. Tsochev added.

Iraq, whose ruling Baath Party was founded on the socialist model, had privileged economic relations with the former Soviet bloc and must pay back considerable debts.

Russia. a permanent U.N. Security Council member seeking an easing of sanctions, signed a preliminary accord with Baghdad last month to develop oil fields which have a capacity of one million barrels of crude per business leaders.

NAIROBI (AFP) - Somali

faction leader Osman Hassan

Ali Atto Tuesday accused

Libys of meddling in Soma-

lia's internal affairs, claiming

that it had sent a delegation

to Mogadishu to assess the

Mohammad Farah Aideed.

former financier, ousted the

warlord last month as head of

the Somali National Alliance.

military delegation to assess

the needs of Aideed's self-

proclaimed government on Mogadishu which we are

closely monitoring," said Mr. Atto in a statement released

Gen. Aideed had himself

elected "interim president"

last month, and appointed "ministers," but his "govern-

ment" remains unrecognised

'We strongly condemn the

by the rest of the world.

"We know Libya has sent a

military needs of warlord

Mr. Atto, Gen. Aideed's

But the Russian company Rukoil can only start de-veloping the Mishrif, Yama-

mah and Rumaileh fields in southern Iraq once the embargo is lifted. Iraq, which has reached similar agreement with French firms Total and Elf-Aquitaine, hopes to see these companies "influence decision-makers in their

countries" to lift the sanc-

tions, former Oil Minister

Safaa Hadi Jawad said. Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan visited Beijing and Hanoi last month partly to explore developing econo-

Like Russia, China is also a permanent Security Council member and supports an easing of the embargo, while Vietnam backs an immediate lifting of the sanctions.

"We support Iraq in its efforts to lift the embargo," Vietnam's ambassador to Baghdad Nguyen Quang Khai told AFP. "Iraq was, is and will remain an important economic partner.

An Iraqi official said: "Lifting the embargo is only a question of time, which explains why several countries want to strengthen their

ties with Iraq." Salah Mukhtar, chairman of the official Association for Peace, Friendship and Soli-darity, warned "countries that are slow will lose a unique chance to restore their cooperation with Iraq.

In March Baghdad hosted an oil conference attended by 200 European officials and

economically aid Aideed and

his government which will

only prolong the suffering of the Somalia leader," Mr.

Clan militias fought with

artillery guns, mortars,

rocket-propelled grenades

the streets of south Moga-

dishu Monday, leaving at

least three dead and four

The fighting between the Murusade and Abgal sub-

clans of the Hawiye in the

Bermuda district, which they

share, was the heaviest since

May, when more than 20

people died, most of them

broke out as a result of "ban-

ditry."
"We're running short of medicines, and if we don't

receive new stocks soon we

won't be able to do much,"

Residents said the fighting

**Atto accuses Libya** 

of aiding Aideed

## Kuwait to probe 'arms graft '

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's government will ask state prosecutors to look into parliamentary allegations of waste and corruption in arms purchases, newspapers reported on Tuesday.

The cabinet took the decision, which could lead to legal action, in response to a parliamentary report that said civil and military officials had lost tens of millions of dollars through ineptitude and possible graft, Al Watan newspaper and the Englishlanguage Arab Times and Kuwait Times reported.

Opposition Deputy Ahmad Bager, who headed the assembly probe published in April, was quoted as welcoming the government's decision "as a step in the right direction." The report called for judi-

cial steps to punish the alleged wrongdoing. It found contracts awarded to the most expensive bidder, arms bought but left unused and frequent squandering

CAIRO (AFP) — Sudanese in Egypt are holding their breath, afraid of being caught

in the middle of a crisis be-tween their home in exile and

"If things go further than this, there will surely be trou-ble for us here," Joseph

Abor, a southern Sudanese

who has lived in Cairo for the

Sudanese expatriates have

warily watched the Egyptian

media which have beaten war

drums against the Islamic

regime in Khartoum after

President Hosni Mubarak ac-

cused it of trying to assassin-

Some Sudanese feared

their Egyptian hosts would

take to heart Mr. Mubarak's

threats to retaliate and vent

"The Egyptian people are

very emotional. They wait for

the word from their govern-ment," siad Miryam Mdana,

another southern Christian.

attack we were very worried

people would do something

to us," she said. "But then

the next day Mubarak went

on television and said the

Sudanese people are

goodhearted and we fell

people realise we are diffe-

rent from the regime and that

there be no war," said

Abduliah Tayeb, a northern

Muslim who has lived in

"We have two hopes: That

"The first day after the

their anger out on them.

ate him on June 26.

past decade, told AFP.

the country they fied.

# New rules curb baggage across King Hussein Bridge

Travellers will be able

to carry carpets with

them, but seeds, medi-cines and fertilizers are

Many expatriates, espe-

cially those who return

from the Gulf, will want

to go back to the self-rule

areas and will be trans-

porting furniture, electro-

nics as well as other

goods, one PSD official

size and quantity of lug-

gage and shipping boxes to only three," the official

told the Jordan Times.

cial, passengers who do not follow the new rules

will not be allowed to

come in completion with

The new arrangements

But Mr. Mdana said

'brotherhood" is often no

more than "ink on paper."

"I have to pay for the education of my children, un-

like Egyptians, and I can't get

a job because I have to get a

work permit. Anyway, there are no jobs and naturally

Egyptians get the few that exist," Mr. Mdana said.

for the two years I've been

here," said Mr. Tayeb. "It is

as if we are citizens but with-

Mr. Tayeb came to Egypt

as a stop-over to move else-

where after being thrown out

of Kuwait because of Gen.

Bashir's support for Iraqi

President Saddam Hussein in

country would given him a visa, ironically because of the

'special" status Egypt gives.

The embassies told me:

'Why should we help you?

Egypt is taking care of you'."

to get permission from the United Nations before they

give any visas. But there are

Sudanese who have waited

four years for the U.N. to

respond," Mr. Tayeb said.

the U.N. declared us re-

fugees. Then we would have

refugee rights and it would

also put pressure on the

Khartoum regime," Mr.

"The best thing would be if

"The embassies all ask us

But he found no other

the 1991 Gulf war.

out rights."

"I have been unemployed

cross the bridge.

According to the offi-

"We had to specify the

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The Public Security Department (PSD) on Tuesday announced new arrangements for travellers crossing the King Hussein Bridge to the Palestinian self-rule areas.

The new arrangements are designed to ease travel and transport of goods for travellers from both sides, a Jordan News Agency, Petra, statement said.

The new procedures stipulates that travellers are obliged to specify the size and quantity of goods they are carrying when crossing the bridge. The number of pieces of bag-gage is limited to three. Travellers will be

allowed to carry more than three pieces of baggage only after obtaining a special permission from both sides.

The statement said that

Sudanese expatriates in Egypt

hold their breath during crisis

er with a tank, we didn't elect it. All the troubles are be-

cause of Bashir," said Mr.
Tayeb, a member of the same

Jaalin tribe as the Sudanese

president, General Omar Al

Bashir, who came to power in

To make their allegiances

clear, many Sudanese turned

up at the presidential palace

to greet Mr. Mubarak after

the attack and a delegation

from the Sudanese opposi-

tion appeared on television

The continual economic

and political crises in Sudan

have created a prominant

Sudanese expatriate com-

munity in Egypt where many

live almost permanently but

in an uncertain status, neither

Their numbers are de-

Sudan says less than 600,000 of its citizens live in

Egypt, while the Egyptian

government says the figure is

closer to two million. Some

expatriates put the number as

Egypt welcomes them as a

"brother people" and allows

them to enter the country and

remain without visas, a lega-

cy of the 56 years of unity

the Nile" under Egyptian

monarchy and British

home," said Mohammad

"I think of Egypt as my

occupation.

high as four million.

refugees nor citizens.

with the president.

1989 coup.

only employees of the self-rule authority will be the signing of a June 21 protocol between Jordan and the Palestinian allowed to transport elec-National Authority tric equipment on the condition that it meets the (PNA). new required sizes. The protocol included

cooperation in land and air transportation and provides for facilitating the transport of travellers and goods between Jordan and the Palestinian

The protocol allows for the transportation of goods licensed by either of the two countries through the territories but disallowed any of the two sides' buses to operate on domestic routes in the other without special permits from the concerned

All goods transported between the two sides will be subject to tariffs and taxes active in the two countries unless the two sides decide to have mutual exemptions. according to the protocol.

KUWAIT (R) - A Kuwaiti woman has been arrested on suspicion of beating to death a Sri Lankan domestic helper, the third Asian maid to be killed in the emirate in a month, the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

Diplomats said they understood the man was a Saudi acquaintance of the Kuwaiti employer. The Interior Ministry spokesman said he had no immediate information on the detained man's nationality.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minist-

## held over Sri Lanka maid death

The woman, a Kuwaiti of Egyptian origin, is the wife of the 22-year-old woman's employer, a minis-try spokesman said by tele-The spokesman denied a

newspaper report that the maid's employer, an Egyptian, had also been arrested. The woman's body was found at the couple's empty house on June 22.

An Arab expatriate was picion of causing the death

# Kuwaiti

arrested earlier this month on of another Sri Lankan maid, also in her early 20s, who was found dead in her bed in suspicious circumstances at her employer's house on June

ry said on June 28 it had asked its embassy in Kuwaii to investigate what it called the two murders.

#### said Hassan Osman, a doctor. | Egypt for two years. Tayeb added. Abdul Latif, who came to hasty move by the Libyan Lebanese couples told to have pre-nuptial tests to fight Al

BEIRUT (AFP) - Lebanon's Ministry of Health is urging couples to have prenuptial medical tests in a bid to avoid the spread of AIDS. a disease considered taboo in this multi-confessional socie-

The government launched a new AIDS-awareness campaign in April but only broadcast an accompanying advert at the start of summer, coinciding with the traditional wedding season in Lebanon and the return of immigrants for holidays.

The television ad sponsored by the ministry shows two beaming newlyweds. A stern message warns that prewedding tests are compul-

The tests, including screen-

ing for the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) virus, were ordered last year by Health Minister Marwan

Hamade. A total of 293 people suffer from AIDS in Lebanon. "This is far less than the

real numbers," Mr. Hamade said, expecting the number to reach 7,000 by the year 2000. Experts said between 2,000 to 2.500 people were HIV positive, that is suffering from the virus which can lead to "In the past two years we

have noted that eight out of 10 cases of HIV positive are detected among Lebanese returning from Africa. Before the victims belonged to riskcategories such as drug addicts or homosexuals," Mr.

Hamade said. "Lebanon is facing an African 'SidaGate'," he said, using the French acronym for AIDS. Several hundreds of

more at ease.'

thousands of Lebanese live in "Lebanese nationals returning from Africa, unknowingly carry the AIDS virus. The most dangerous thing is that these people most often come back to marry. That's

why we imposed a pre-nuptial certificate." he told According to officials,

women represented two to three per cent of all cases at the start of the 1990s while now they are 18 per cent. "Our only other weapon to fight back, besides the prenuptial certificate - is

Aqaba 24 /38
Deserts 15 / 34
Jordan Valley 21 / 38

Dr Mufid Damra

through public information campaigns and an awareness drive at home and in Africa, Mr. Hamade said.

Lebanese, AIDS was "still a

mother of two who grew up cousin, the pre-nuptial test tracted the AIDS virus from her husband who died two years ago.

In her village of 'Ain Yaacub in northern Leba-

But he said for most For Badriye, a 45-year-old

in Africa and married her has come too late. She con-

non, news of Badriye's "shameful" disease spread quickly and she was outcast until her doctor encouraged her to appear in a television programme about AIDS. She is now only the second

person in Lebanon to have spoken publicly about the killer virus in an effort to inform others "and show them there is nothing to be afraid of."

"The people in the village are mostly uneducated. But the doctor came and spoke to them and he had coffee with me in front of them. I also appeared on television and the crew lunched with me. Things have changed," said Badrive.

Experts like Badriye's doctor, Jacques Mokhbat who heads the Lebanese AIDS society, and Elie Aarai, who runs a community services group, agreed that "diseases linked to sexuality are

Belinda Abu Adal of SOS SIDA, a group which has also

sponsored television advertisements using popular recording artists, said the shame factor was worse here "because Lebanon is like a big village. People who go for a screening prefer to use assumed names while those who can afford it, travel abroad to be treated for AIDS.

Lebanon set up a national AIDS control programme in 1988 — four years after the first case of AIDS was recorded.

"Since 1988 we have seen people who never left home contaminated by AIDS. This is very dangerous and could be the preamble of a health, human and social catastrophe," said Elyssar Radi, director of the programme.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Indian team on shopping visit to israel

NEW DELHI (R) - A high-level Indian defence delegation left for Israel on Tuesday on a shopping visit aimed at boosting surveillance technology for India's Russian-designed tanks and fighter aircraft, officials said. They said the the team of experts from all three services was led by Defence Secretary K.A. Nambiar, the Defence Ministry's top civil servant. The Press Trust of India (PTI) said the delegation would finalise details of India's proposed acquisition of Israel's sophisticated remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs) for surveillance to boost its artillery and land-based missiles. It said India might seek technology transfers of some RPV systems to boost its own RPV programme and may also seek ways to upgrade India's Russian battle tanks. Traditionally pro-Arab, India established diplomatic ties with Israel in January 1992.

#### Ashrawi stands down as head of rights group

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) - Former Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi is standing aside as head of the Independent Commission for Citizens Rights, she told AFP on Tuesday. "I will still be on the board," Dr. Ashrawi said, "but I don't want to run again. The post should be rotated." The ex-English literature lecturer who shot to fame in 1991 as the cultivated voice of the Palestinian struggle in the occupied territories said elec-tions would be held at the commission. She would officially hand over the reins in September at the body she was instrumental in founding more than a year ago. "I don't believe in on person institutions and I don't have time to run the commission all the time." Palestinian psychiatrist Iyad Sarraj was expected to take over. Dr. Ashrawi, 48, said: "I will be doing more writing and I think the best thing now will be to work for free and fair elections." She has just published her first non-academic work, called, "This Side

#### Abu Zeid launches appeal procedure

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CAIRO (AFP) - University professor Nasr Hamed Abu Zeid has begun legal proceedings to overturn a court order to separate from his wife on grounds of heresy. Court sources said the professor and his wife Ibtihal Yuness lodged an appeal on Sunday to suspend execution of the sentence and the next day filed their case in the supreme court. A tribunal is to study the case starting on Aug. 1. The Abu Zeid complained that the unprecedented ruling on June 15 ordering their separation "poses a threat to their lies," as under Islam the punishment for heresy is execution. The court was not competent to reach such a verdict and the ruling was invalid because the husband was "a believing Muslim," the couple insisted. On Thursday, another Cairo court is to hear a separate appeal filed by a colleague of Dr. Abu Zeid, Ahmad Hussein Al Ahwani, a science professor at Cairo University. An appeals court judged Dr. Abu Zeid, an Arabic professor, a heretic and ordered him separated from his wife on the grounds that a Muslim woman cannot be married to an apostate. The court ruled that Dr. Abu Zeid's writings attacked Islam.

#### Satanic cult plans to sacrifice babies

TEL AVIV (AFP) - A satanic cult in Israel is planning to sacrifice a new-born baby, a former member of the group has told a parliamentary committee. "The sacrificial rites with cats will soon be replaced by the killing of babies," a 19-year-old ex-cult follower told the education committee on Monday. "One of the cult member is pregnant and they plan to sacrifice her baby." Dressed in a black mask, the man identified only as Yaakov said hundreds of youths had joined the sect. "They are prepared to kill their parents, particularly their fathers," he added, saying he himself was a battered child. Yaacov described how the cell of 40-50 youths he belonged to for three years killed cats and sucked each other's blood. Israeli newspapers reported at the end of June that an Israeli teenager had stabbed to death another boy as an initiation rite for a satanic sect. However, Police Minister Moshe Shahal told the committee that no link had been established between the alleged killer and the sect. A second suspect who is a member of the cult was released Sunday night for lack of evidence. Mr. Shahal pointed out that there was no law against membership of cults, but he added that police closely monitor mystic sects in Israel.

#### **Emir of Qatar meets Yemeni speaker**

DOHA (AFP) — Yemen's speaker of Parliament Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar on Tuesday met Qatar's new emir, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, who seized power in a bloodless coup last week, the official QNA news agency said. Sheikh Ahmar, who heads the Islamic fundamentalist Al Islah party which is a member of the coalition government in Sanaa, congratulated Sheikh Hamad on assuming power, the agency said.

#### Ciller says Greece backs Kurd rebeis

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on Tuesday accused rival Greece of supporting Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas fighting a separatist campaign in southeast Turkey. "Our neighbour Greece is apparently aiding the PKK. Our neighbour Greece is making death shrouds for Turks," Ms. Ciller told a meeting of deputies from her conservative True Path Party (DYP) Ms. Ciller said she had evidence of Greek backing for the rebels but did not elaborate. She warned Athens that its alleged support for the PKK would backfire. "Those who open their arms to the terrorists will fall into the terrorists' arms," she said. Greece denies frequent Turkish accusations it harbours the PKK and allows the rebels to train on its soil. Turkish officials have complained that six Greek deputies met PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan at a rebel base in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley last month.

#### JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

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	15:30 Amazing Storic
	16:00 The House of Elect
	17:00 Tennis: Wimbledon 1995
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#### ..... Maghreb

PRAYER TIMES

05:30 (Sunrise) Duha 12:40 Dhuhr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfieh, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Assusaciation Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church Tci. 661757 Terrasaucta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Assumciation Tel Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel Armenian Catholic Church Tcl. 771331. mains Orthodox Church Tel St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 652526. Evangelical Latheran Church Tcl: 824328.

#### Tel. 811295 WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly with winds north-westerly moderate. In Aquba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm. Mm./Max. temp.

NIGHT German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel. 6v4/195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarran Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in AMMAN: Dr. Abdul Rahim Dr. Faroug Nour Dr. Mukhles Hala Dr Jihad Zyadch First pharmacy .. Al Asema charm Yacoub charges ותובהם ותבחסתו Nairouth channa Name pharmacy. IRBID: Dr. Akram Al Mo Al Ques pharmac

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Al Asema pharmacy 637055	Central Amman Telephone
Nauroubh oh 427477	Repairs
Nairoukh pharmacy	Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Al Salam pharmacy 636730	Jordan Television 773111
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	Radio Jordan
Shmorsani pharmacy 637660	
Nairough pharmacy	Water Authority 680100
Najih pharmacy 847632	
IRBID:	HOSPITALS
Dr. Akram Al Momani 248795	
Al Ouds pharmacy (—)	AMMAN:

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#### **EMERGENCIES**

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Blood Bank 775121
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Hotel Complaints 605/900
Price Complaints fel 176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan
Water Authorsty 680100

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternaty, J. Amn 6442816

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Amal Hospital ...... 674155 The Arab Centre for Heart and ZARQA:
Zarqa Govi. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)980360
[bu Sina Hospital ...... (09)986732
Al Halma Modern Hospital (19)90090 Process Basera Hospital ..... (02)275555

#### Princest Haya Hospital . . (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER

Greek Catholic Hospital (IC)27275 The Al Nafees Hospital ...... (IC)247(III)

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

#### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) OS:00 . Demascus (RJ) ... Jeddah (R.i) 10:00 10:10 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

.. Larneca (RJ) 19:58 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 15:30 ...... Montreal (RI) 16:60 New York, Amsterdam (RI) 15:00 ...... Toronto (RI) Istanbul (RJ) ...... Brussels, Geneva (RJ) !<del>9:0</del>8 19-30 . ...... London, Berlin (RJ) 19:35 .. .... Rome (RJ) Frankfurt, Vienna, Istanbul (RI) 00:39 ..... Beinit (RJ)

92:25 ..... Riyadh (add) (RJ) ..... Dhahran (add) (RJ) 03:99 ..... Madrid (RJ) Other Filghts (Terminal 2) 16:50 .. Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK) 11:30 .... Jeddah (SV) Calro (MS) .... London, Berrut (BA) ..... Athens (PK)

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#### isters' conference in Cairo (Petra photo) Arab ministers in Cairo for talks on information relations, media image

Amman (Petra) - Information Minister Khaled Karaki Tuesday arrived in Cairo at the head of an official delegation to attend the two-day meeting of the Council of

Arab Information Ministers which convenes there today. In a departure statement, Dr. Karaki said Jordan, along with other Arab nations, seeks to draw up new perceptions for Arab

information relations. We are at an historic junction with the world in witnessing drastic changes and . transitions," the minister said.

Dr. Karaki stressed that the Jordanian democratic march has provided firm constitutional pillars for the country's information apparatus, such as freedom of expression and opinion.

Dr. Karaki said Arab information ministers will discuss topics such as freedomrelated issues, proposals on aspects of an Arab information strategy, the role of information in fighting extremism, in the protection

of human rights and in the reflection of Islamic and Arab images in the media.

The ministers will also discuss means of enhancing inter-Arab coordination through Arab satellite channeis and developing cooperation between Arab and international news agencies.

The Jordanian delegation includes Director General of Jordan Radio and Television Corporation Ibsan Ramzi and Fayez Hadidi from the Ministry of Information.

#### Royal Decree endorses Higher Council of Transport

AMMAN (Petra) - A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday endorsing the Higher Council of Transport regulation approved earlier by the Cabinet. The council will advance and evaluate the performance of the transport sector. It is expected to plan transport policies and following up their implementation. It was also entrusted with setting up committees on civil aviation, road, railway and marine transport, and a follow up panel. Chaired by Minister of Transport Samir Kawar the council includes the ministers of planning, finance, thereor, tourism, public works, the secretary general of the Ministry of Transport, directors general of the Jordanian Ports Corporation, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Aqaba Railway. Corporation, the Public Transport Corporation as well as three representatives of the private sector.

#### Businessmen discuss peace, national economy

AMMAN (Petra) - Businessmen hereTuesday said the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty will have positive effects on the Kingdom's economy if Israel lives up-toits commitment towards establishing peace in the region and if the United States provides the necessary political and economic

support needed to ensure the success of the peace process. Vice President of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association Fakhri Bilbeisi spoke of the peace process as presenting a new phase of

challenge for the region. Mr. Bilbeisi noted that the national economy will face

this challenge by ensuring high-quality products, cutting down on the costs, providing the necessary cadres and developing all sectors of

production. -He also called for reviewing the economic, financial and trade legislation package, and for removing all obstacles to investment as well as overcoming bureau-

Mr. Bilbeisi voiced his support for the revitalisation inter-Arab economic cooperation agreements and the creation of incentives for

investments. One of the positive effects,

he said, of the peace process will be the development of regional, environmental, tourist, water and industrial projects.

According to JBA board member Wa'el Ghneim, the economy is currently suffering from a shortage of cash liquidity due to the high demand for purchasing shares in shareholding companies, hotels and tourist

companies. Mr. Ghneim said he hoped that the peace process will have a positive impact on the national economy in order to bring an end to the economic recession.

# Workshop tackles establishment needs of mineral industries institute

AMMAN (Petra) - A twoday workshop organised by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the procedures of establishing a mineral industries institute in Jordan started here Tuesday.

Addressing the workshop. which was organised in cooperation with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), Minister of Labour Nader Abu Shaar said the project provides the infrastructure for developing the already existing mineral industries and that the project will cover all small and medium sized industries.

Addressing the opening session. Dr. Abu Shaar said that the project seeks to increase demand for a highly qualified and skilled labour force and technicians. Dr. Abu Shaar said he hoped that participants in the workshop will come up with

results that positively reflect

on project planning and implementation.

VTC Director General Ali Nasrallah outlined his corporation's role in preparing and providing a trained labour force to meet the local market needs.

Mr. Nasrallah noted that the corporation has been able to provide the national labour market with some 100,000 skilled labourers. Commenting on the pro-

posed project, Mr Nasrallah said the workshop represents a qualitative leap in the work of the corporation. The project will be

financed through Japanese contributions. Japan will also provide the necessary training for Jordanian cadres who will be

running the project. The project hopes to execute goals laid out by a national plan designed to further develop vocational education and training.



Minister of Labour Nader Abu Shaar (second right), Vocational Training Corporation Director General Ali Nasrallah and representatives of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency open a workshop on establishing a mineral industries institute in the Kingdom (Petra photo)

#### Petra sees 144,811 tourists in 6 months

Amman(Petra) - The Petra Antiquities Department collected JD 1.5 million in admission fees from 144,811 visitors who visited the Nabataean city during the first six months of this year, according to Suleiman Farajat, director of the department. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Farajat stressed the need to speed up tourism development plans for the region, particularly in cooperation with the Petra Regional Organisation Council. According to Mr. Farajat, the ancient city of Petra has become one of the most important tourist attractions in the world.

AL al Bayt Foundation opens scholarly debate on religion

em age, identity crises, cul-

tural strategies as well as a

dialogue between religious

Amman (Petra) - His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, the Regent, today opens the 10th session of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (AL al Bayt Foundation) to be held under the theme: "Muslims and the dialogue of religious civilisations in the contem-

civilisations, according to porary world". Researchers and scholars academy president Naseruddin Al Assad. from different countries will discuss 23 research papers, in addition to working papers on Islamic da'wa, challenges of the post-mod-

Taking part in the session will be 80 academy members, experts and guests from 30 countries. The academy holds its session on a biennial basis here in

# Jordanian-French medical conference to delve into genetics, genetic diseases

By Rima Cortbawi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - This year's Jordanian French Medical Association (JFMA) conference has selected "genetics and genetic diseases" as its theme because of the growing interest worldwide in this developing field of medicine, said JFMA President and paediatrician Fathiyeh

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge. experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is a relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the

As "units of inheritance" according to Dr. Saudi. genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"In other words, genes influence all traits of character and outward appearance of individuals," Dr. Saudi

In the developed world, massive amounts of research is conducted in genetics. According to Dr. Saudi, the efforts are geared towards developing a human map of genes, which will enable experts to locate all the genes in the chromosomes.

"This is very important, especially that many diseases and human malfunctions have been proved to be related to genes," said Dr. Saudi.

For instance, lassemia (or Mediterranian anaemia) as well as various birth defects are shown to be genetic problems, said paediatrician Hatem Shanti, a clinical genetics and cytogenetics specialist.

"Hypertension, diabetes, arterioscierosis as well as colon and breast cancer are also known to be related to some genes," said Dr. Saudi. It is within genes that mutations may initiate or progress a large number of cancers, she explained.

The process of locating genes, then, paves the way, for diagnosing, preventing and treating genetic diseases, Dr. Saudi said.

"Gene therapy is already used in developed countries to treat cancer and some abnormalities related to lung secretions.

In cancer patients, genes can target cancerous cells to make them more amenable

to chemotherapy, said Dr. Other ways under experi-

mental trial involve fighting cancer cells with a tumour killing factor, or replacing tumour suppressing genes (once lost from the body), Dr. Shanti added. "Development of genetic procedures by the year 2010

is the objective of research centres, which hope to locate all genes within this timeframe," Dr. Saudi said, Still considered to be under experiment in developed countries, gene therapy is not yet available in Jor-

"We have nothing on gene therapy, but we are looking towards developing it," said Dr. Shanti.

Genetic laboratories have in the last few years been established at the University of Jordan as referral centres for other medical institutes to use for chromosomal analysis, said Dr. Saudi.

"We also have our own genetic labs at the Jordan University of Science and . tors.

Technology," Dr. Shanti

Generally, doctors agree there is much room for advancement in the genetic field in Jordan. According to Dr. Saudi.

obstetricians, paediatricians, oncologists, anatomopathologists and general practitioners can benefit from attending the coming conference, which will handle the topics of paediatrics and genetic diseases, cancer and genetics, population and epidemiology, genetics in pre-natal medicine and genetic counselling.
Under the patronage of

Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Bin Zeid the two-day conference will be opened Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre, and will include the presentation of medical papers by five professors from the National Institute for Health and Medical Research in France and seven Jordanian professors and practitioners from the public and private sec-

# 'No-stress' information service to start up at hotels soon

By Amy Henderson Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Amman — The quest for information in Jordan is a battle often lost. Phone numbers are hard to find. Proper addresses do not exist. Arranging excursions could be a hair-raising experience. And for travellers, this can be troubling. A new service on offer within the next two weeks should alleviate the stress associated with the search for elusive information.

Jordan Online, coming soon to a major hotel near you, will put valuable information about Jordan at the fingertips of weary travellers and busy businessmen, and others who have grown weary of the fight.

This new user-friendly computer system will provide general and specific information about Jordan, its major tourist attractions. commercial business, history of the Kingdom, botels, cuisine and shopping, to name a few.

"This idea came to us several months ago, actually From people outside of Jordan," said Ramzi Abdel Jaber, a managing partner of Integrated Business Solutions, the company that designed the system. They do not know where to go or how to get there (when in Jordan), and that is what this system is about."

A thorough tourist guide provides a map of the Kingdom, listing most tourist sites in Jordan — even sites that the group did not know existed but found out about through other tourists, said Sawsan Dababneh, one of the system's designers.

Lay a finger on your destination of choice — Aqaba for example - and the screen gives a full colour preview of the warm beaches of the seaside resort. Need a hotel or place to

eat, and want to see the menu and price list before you get there? Wondering know how to get there? Want to shop for antiques? Looking for a rental car to drive back to Amman? Out of dinars and want to change money? The system will answer nearly all your questions, for free, quickly, without hassle and all at one

time, its designers claimed Users can preview almost all tourists sites via computer before arranging a trip.

Jordan Online's Commercial Guide offers information on business associations, clubs and centres. flight information, a shopping section (that includes where to find men's, women's and children's clothing as well as specialty stores, crafts, antiques and -jewel<del>lery), whil</del>e a leisuresection displays Jordan's restaurants, coffee shops and galleries complete with addresses, phone numbers and directions.

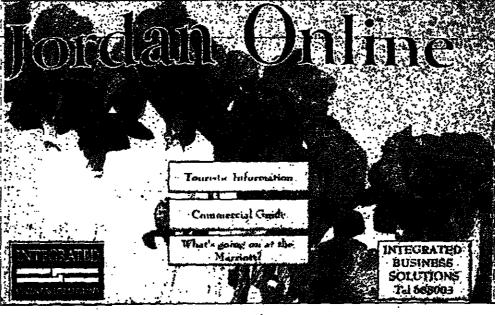
For non-Arabic speakers, the system provides a list of useful Arabic expressions. According to Mr. Abdel Jaher, the system will survive on advertisements.

Anyone who has something to offer to tourists or businessmen has the option of buying a full-screen, halfscreen or one-third of a screen advertisement, all with colour graphics. The system will be updat-

ed monthly, and the group has plans to distribute Jordan Online to hotels in Amman, Aqaba and Petra. Also, Jordan Online will incorporate video and sound in coming months. In the coming two weeks,

the system will be available in kiosks at the Inter-Continental Hotel, the Marriott Hotel and the Regency Palace Hotel for public use. It is a touch-based, graphical system with two main guides -- commercial and tourist.

While the system's young designers, Ms. Dababneh, Sawsan Aker and Mr. Abdel Jaber - partners in IBS.



The 'Jordan Online' logo on a computer monitor

promote the system as a general guide, a tour of the system renders an impressive array of information and

graphic design.
The idea for this system is not new," said Mr. Abdel Jaber. "It is used in other countries, but here there is nothing really comparable. It is a necessary service for

people."
"Jordan Online will be an additional guest service," said Ahmad Kiswani,

Regency Palace Front desk

manager. "But not only will

it help service our guests. who are tourists and businessmen, it will also help the hotel reception in providing information."

"These young people are providing much needed information," said Richard Lion, general manager of the Amman Marriott. "It is an excellent system. It is useful, flexible, and fun to look at. It is very impressive." At the outset of the pro-

ject's design, the three-some

said their idea was met with

scepticism. "We heard it

would not work," said Mr. Abdel Jaber. "People also thought that companies in Jordan do not have the capabilities to design such a thing, but they do."

This, the three said, motivated them to design the computer with the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference in mind.

"We are trying to target the Amman summit to show people outside that there is enormous potential in Jor-dan," said Mr. Abdel Jaber.

#### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed times and places with the concerned institutions.

FILMS

"Murder on the Orient Express" at the British Council at

"The Civil War: a very bloody affair (1862)," at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Art.

Works by Iraqi artist Tahija Al Hakim at Ab'ad At

the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali

Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over

## PALESTINE HOSPITAL

announces that its

new telephone no. is

607071

# Sri Lanka Navy destroys rebel boats in sea battle

COLOMBO (R) - Sri Lankan Navy fast-attack craft chased and blew up at least three Tamil Tiger guerrilla boats in a fierce sea battle off the rebels' Jaffna stronghold in the north early Tuesday, military sources said.

Air Force Pucara groundattack aircraft and helicopter gunships attacked the flotilla of guerrilla "Sea Tiger" boats when they beached after the navy repulsed a rebel attack.

At least 10 terrorist craft came close to attack our fastattack craft (FAC) providing escort off Jaffna." a senior military officer told Reuters.

"Our FACs intercepted and destroyed three terrorist boats. We saw them catching fire and exploding," he said. "Terrorists in the boats would have died but we don't know how many."

The fight with the rebel boats occurred off Polikandi, between the rebel naval base at Velvettiturai and Point Pedro, on Jaffna's northern coast, sources said.

The navy convoy, consisting of two landing craft

high

escorted by three Dvora-class fast-attack craft, was heading towards the Vettilaikerni army camp on Jaffna's last coast from the Kankesanturai Navy Base on the north

The navy proceeded on its mission after repulsing the attack," the military officer said. One sailor was injured in the clash.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east, have been building up their navy to pose a threat to Sri Lanka's tiny

The government navy has been forced to step up escorts for its handful of slowmoving landing craft, which supply isolated army outposts on the northern coast, because of the threat of Sea Tiger suicide boats.

Last week, 1,000 Sea Tigers in a flotilla of armourplated boats staged an amphibious raid on the army's Mandaithivu Island base, west of Jaffna, killing more

than 100 soldiers while losing 50 rebels. ·

Navy FACs destroyed another rebel boat off early Monday morning, a military spokes-

Two rebels were killed in an army ambush Tuesday morning in the northeastern Mullaitivu area, he said. Jaffna residents said the

rebels could step up attacks to mark "Black Tiger week" this week in which they commemorate the deaths of rebels from their Black Tiger suicide squads.

Black Tiger suicide squads are believed responsible for sassinating former Indian Prime Minister Raiiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa. The government appealed

Tuesday to newspaper editors to avoid publishing news stories that could hurt the morale of soldiers in their war against Tamil rebels. The appeal comes when President Chandrika Kumaratunga has warned that she

Meanwhile, opposition legislators Tuesday staged their first sit-down protest outside Sri Lanka's parlia-ment calling for President Chandrika Kumaratunga's may curb press freedom begovernment to deliver on

irresponsible reporting.

'We want peace. To

achieve it we have to fight."

Media Minister Dharmasiri

Senanayake told editors of

local newspapers at a meet-

The minister requested the

editors not to write stories

that could create communal

problems between the major-

ity Sinhalese and minority

A few days ago, the milit-

ary suffered its worst setback

when Tamil rebels attacked a

northern army camp on June 28 and killed 110 people in-

"We take the war situation

seriously and the media should play a responsible

role. Trying to analyse milit-

ary secrets is advantageous to

the enemy," the president told a meeting in May.

cluding six civilians.

## Secret Beijing visit points to new Chinese outlook on Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) --Hong Kong's Chief Secretary Anson Chan revealed Tuesday that she had made a secret trip to Beijing, raising hopes of a more positive rela-tionship in the run-up to China's resumption of sovereignty over the territory in 1997.

Speaking to reporters, Ms. Chan — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten's secondin-command -- said she had met Foreign Minister and Vice Premier Qian Qichen, as well as China's top official for Hong Kong affairs, Tu Ping, during a three-day "re-laxing holiday" in the Chinese capital.

"I came away... really feeling very good and very encouraged about the prospect for more positive cooperation between the two sides," Ms. Chan said after briefing Mr. Patten and his cabinet, the Executive Council, on the

trip. Not only did Mr. Lu, who

SEOUL (AFP) - Two rice-

laden freighters left South

Korean ports Tuesday, re-

suming an emergency food

lifeline to relieve acute shor-

tages in Communist North

Officials said the two cargo

vessels, the Toljin carrying

2,000 tonnes and the Hangiin

loaded with 2,500 tonnes,

steamed out of the ports of

Donghae and Mokpo at 0900

A third ship, the Eastern Venture with 3,500 tonnes of

rice, which had been sche-

duled to leave at the same

time, was blocked by dense

fog shrouding Pusan Port and

would sail early Wednesday,

All three had been on their

way North last week when

Seoul angrily ordered them

to return after the North had

forced the first ship to raise

the North Korean flag while

onloading its 2,000 tonne car-

discharge their cargoes in re-

lay at the North's Chongjin

Port between Wednesday

and Friday, Yonhap News Agency said.

13 freighters, carrying 40,000

tonnes in total, will sail next

week. Yonhan said.

A second shuttle involving

They are now scheduled to

the officials said.

broke a hospital stay to meet Ms. Chan, agree to keep in

close touch with her, but the chief secretary also got an open invitation from Mr. Qian to visit China "at any time." she said. In return, she invited Mr. Qian to visit Hong Kong. "I hope that on the basis of

this first visit, it will be possible for us to establish a more positive, warmer rela-tionships," she said, adding emphatically that "no deals" were struck during her talks. Ms. Chan's trip came two years to the day before Britain returns its last major overseas possession to China, which has promised Hong Kong a "high degree of

autonomy" for at least 50 years beyond 1997. It also suggested a turnar-ound in China's outlook on Hong Kong, after nearly three years of sour relations with Britain prompted by Mr.

Seoul resumes rice shipment to North

The resumption of the

shipments, after a week's

hiatus, followed a cabinet de-

cision in Seoul Monday to

accept a rare official express-

ion of regret from North Korea over the flag incident.

It also followed a detailed

agreement between the two

Koreas, reached in talks in

Beijing Tuesday, that the

ships would fly no national

flag from a point 3.2 miles

(5.1 kilometres) from Chong-

jin port, a National Unifica-

tion Board spokesman said.

Korean vessel will pull down

the South Korean flag will be

3.2 miles from Chogjin har-

bour piers, a point where the

vessel will meet a waiting

North Korean pilot boat," spokesman Kim Kyong-

The South's Vice Unifica-

tion Minister Song Yong-Dae

Monday said the relief opera-

tion was back in full swing as

it had accepted the telegram of regret, sent by Jon Kum-

Choi, advisor to the North's

Committee for the Promo-

tion of External Economic

cluding husking, sacking and

shipping rice will soon be resumed," Song said.

"All necessary steps in-

Woong said.

Cooperation.

"The point where a South

"It's recognition that further actions need to be taken, not just words," said Michael De Golyer, a political scientist at Hong Kong Baptist College who is closely monitoring the run-up to 1997.

Public confidence has sagged in recent months as Chi-

na continued to shun contact with Mr. Patten's administration. The local economy has shown serious signs of slower growth and rising unemployment.

"It began to dawn in Beijing that something seriously had to be done." Mr. De Golyct said.

After months of Sino-British stalemate, two out-standing issues were resolved in June - one on the setting up of a post-1997 Court of Final Appeal to underpin the rule of law, the other on Patten's attempt to increase

financing details for Hong Kong's mammoth new air-

Analysts here said Monday

of the regret message as a

victory for moderates in the

South Korean administra-

The fact that North Korea

level to Seoul's protest -

In the apology Mr. Jon

raise the North's flag had

been given because Chongjin

Port authorities were not

aware of the fine print of the

rice-aid agreement which

stipulated no national flags,

Seoul had earlier rejected a

lower-level North Korean

trading company explanation

of the confusion over the flag

Said one analyst here:

"The fact that it came from

the same man whose signa-

ture was on the Beijing nego-

tiations was of far more im-

portance than whether it was

an explanation or an apolo-

in the North.

analysts said.

the source said.

as unofficial.

#### **UAE** tackles a weighty problem

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) - Health authorities in the United Arab Emirates are facing a serious problem — the bulging number of overweight people. A recent survey of 5.031 citizens revealed that a majority of them were overweight, Dubai's Gulf News daily reported. It said out of 2,180 males surveyed, 42 per cent were overweight. The number of obese women was even higher. The study showed that out of 2,851 females, 32 per cent were overweight and 42 per cent were "excessively over-weight." To tackle the problem, the Health Ministry has launched a "fight obese" programme. A senior official told the newspaper that the plan would aim at changing people's habits. The phenomenon is blamed on eating habits and lack of exercise.

#### India's Rambo completes year in prison

Indian films, completed a year in prison Monday in connection with a series of they saw Seoul's acceptance years ago which left some 300 people dead, officials said. Dutt, 28, who surrendered to the police following the serial tion, who see the rice aid as a blasts, is being held under a pragmatic goodwill signal to its crstwhile Communist foe tough anti-terrorism law which carries a maximum punishment of 20 years in jail had responded at an official MP from India's ruling Conrather than turning its back - was an indication that Pyongyang too wanted the shipments to go ahead, the roles he preferred to play. reportedly said the order to buying assault rifles from sus-

#### Stand-in son heips open a sculptural look at Papa

PARIS (AP) - Could that be "Papa" Hemingway, reincarnated in the tiny bar named after him at the Ritz Hotel? He had the moustache, the worldly dash, the ready smile and laugh of the man who "liberated" the swanky hotel from the Nazis 50 years ago. No, it was his 🥕 son Jack, 71, admiring the opening of a lively show of 10 sculptures by French artist Marc Dray. "It's a touching homage to Papa all right, said Jack, in town with his wife Angela between fishing trips in Europe, stopping to see the show in honour of Hemingway's literary works. 'Hemingway's books are very precious to me," said Dray as guests sipped champagne and ogled his works like "The Bicephalous Bull, The Boat Of Santiago Grouper Fish, and Bulls For Lady Ashley, in the show to last until July 21. Curious but evocative and semifigurative, the works are assemblages — of wood, wire, plastic, metal, leather. Things I've often found on the beach," said the artist, who added that the first serious book he'd ever read was Old Man And The Sea. "This one's great," said Jack Hemingway, patting a movable pair of red boxer's gloves with names of Hemingway's works in-scribed on them, called Two Fists. That's All. The cozy bar, formerly known as Bertin's Bar for its famous bartender who reigned during 23 years, was renovated last year and renamed after the American writer As legend has it. an ebullient Hemingway "liberated" his favourite hotel in August 1944 by

#### everyone in the bar. Revenge of jilted husband

LONDON (AFP) - A jilted postwoman's husband took revenge on his wife mailing a video of their love-making through letter boxes on her round, the British press reported Tuesday. Six weeks afer Susan Ryan, 33, left her husband John, she found that more than 20 copies of their home sex videos were in the hands of her customers. The story of revenge was told in Teesside Crown Court in northern England, when Ryan, 34, was cleared of attempting to murder his wife after wresting a breadknife from her and stabbing her in

# **Tension**

elections YEREVAN (AFP) - Armenians go to the polls Wednesday for the first time since Communist rule crumbled to elect a new parliament amid

Several thousand people massed Monday evening at central Liberty Square to the capital Yerevan, as they have done over past few weeks. to demand that these parties be allowed to take part in the

Dozens of people have set up camp in the square, under the red, blue orange Armenian flag, to call for the release of their relatives, 14. members of the banned opposition Revolutionary Federartion (Dashnaksutyun), jailed for terrorism. A 15th member died in prison

The opposition has accused President Levon ler-Petrossian, a moderate nationalist voted to power in October 1991, of staging an about-face on democracy by banning certain opposition

parties. Mr. Ter-Petrossian and his supporters were the first along with the Baltic states to heed calls for liberty and national identity in the late 1980s which helped accelerates the demise of the Soviet

empire. The leaders in power in Armenia are showing their true colours today, we can't talk about a democratic campaign, and we cannot rule out the possibility that they will just keep up the facade of an opposition after the elections " said Vazgen Manukian, leader of the opposition National Democratic Union.

The government denies any totalitarian intent, and says that Wednesday's polls will be carried out strictly according to the law, outgoing president of the National Assembly Bobken Araktsian said.

The 2.4 million registered voters will choose among 13 parties to elect 190 deputies. The Electoral Commission has banned candidates from nine other parties, citing irregularities in their registra-

The new parliament will replace the current Supreme Soviet elected in the summer

A referendum on a new post-Soviet constitution which will recognise fundamental freedoms and set up a parliamentary republic is scheduled for the same

day. Since 1993 the opposition has organised huge antigovernment rallies, bringing tens of thousands of people into the streets of Yerevan. The nervous political climate has been exacerbated by last December's banning of Dashnakustyun, the oldest political party founded in 1890, which emerged in 1991 from the decades of clandes-

tinity under Communist rule. Mr. Ter-Petrossian has accused the party of protecting a branch of the underground paramilitary, charged with involvement in political assas-

## Shuttle, Mir go their separate ways

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP) - After five days of speeding around Earth under the flags of two nations, shuttle Atlantis and space station Mir separated Tuesday with a gentle push and moved into their own orbits again.

But first, two cosmonauts left the Mir in a small Soyuz transport ship and moved 76 metres (250 feet) away to record the undocking of the shuttle and space station which had flown as one large spacecraft — the largest ever. In turn, Atlantis made its own circular flight to photograph the Soyuz reattachment to Mir.

"The button is pushed, the

"hoot" Gibson, telling the space centre that the mechanism that linked the two craft was being released.

At the point, springs eased the shuttle away from the Mir, which had been anchored to the docking mechanism in the shuttle cargo bay. Slowly the two giant spacecraft — the 100-tonne Atlantis and the 123-tonne Mir — separated. The crew on the Soyuz reported it had a good view of the process.

The three spacecraft performed an intricate ballet. sparkling in the sunshine against the blackness of

The sun was so bright that hooks are driving," said shut-tle Commander Robert it obscured the docking target on Mir, but the Soyuz was it obscured the docking target

reattached successfully to the station. The cosmonauts also had to contend with a shutdown of the main computer on Mir, which in turn failed to turn on the station lights.

"Atlantis, it has been an inspiring visit with our neighbours in space," said mission control.

"We look forward to returning," the Houston Control Centre added. "We agree with that.... We agree 100 per cent," Gibson

replied.

The space-to-ground radio link crackled with several sets of conversations, with mission control in Kaliningrad speaking to the cosmonauts

#### on Soyuz in Russian. Dalai Lama celebrates 60th birthday

NEW DELHI (R) — The Dalai Lama Tuesday began three days of 60th birthday celebrations with a prayer meeting at dawn in a park dedicated to Lord Buddha in the Indian capital.

The Tibetan god-king, seated on a yellow brocade prayer mat, led a baritone chant by some 40 monks in traditional maroon and saffron robes, facing a large golden statue of the Buddha amid burning incense and the accompaniment of prayer

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan

Tuesday continued its efforts

to minimise the effect of re-

ports on Chinese wargames

which have triggered public

panic and sent the local

Senior government offi-

cials called on the public to

remain calm, while reiterat-

ing that they had learned nothing about the so-called

Dong Hai military exercise launched by China. Even if

there had been a Chinese

wargame, it was a routine

one, not targetted against

"I have not learned any-

thing about this," govern-

ment spokesman Jason Hu

said. He called on the public

not to be panicked by the

reported exercise.
"This would only give the

Chinese Communists a

chance to frighten the people

Taiwan, the officials said.

bourse tumbling.

After the 45-minute prayer session, the Dalai Lama planted a pipal tree sapling in front of the statue. The Buddha is believed to have attained salvation under a

pipal tree. The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate. The four seminars, on nonviolence and compassion in

Taiwan steps up damage control

ters here.

over Chinese military wargame panic

here, which would affect our

stability," Mr. Hu told repor-

the Mainland Affairs Coun-

Office, under the Defence

Ministry, said it could not

provide any information on

On Monday the Taiwanese

press and the three state tele-

vision stations prominently

reported on the wargame.

The mass-circulation United

Daily News said the exercises

were launched by the

Chinese air force and navy on

June 30 off the coast of Chi-

na's eastern Zhejiang pro-

The leading China Times

newspaper said the exercise

started along the southeast-

ern coast of China, separated

from Taiwan only by the

the exercise in question.

cil, also called for calm,

Vincent Siew, chairman of

The Military Spokesman's

the 21st century, time and transcendence, inner and outer disciplines and sciences and spirituality, will include internationally prominent academics, organisers said.

Organisers said they had chosen India as the venue for

"This honour has been given to India because His Holiness is an incarnation of Lord Buddha and India is the land of Buddha." Lakhan Mehrotra, an organiser; said.

Earlier Monday,

Taiwanese military sources

said the last month's exer-

cises, the fifth since Septem-

ber, were an obvious retalia-

tory move following "pri-

vate" visits abroad by

Taiwanese leaders. The man-

oeuvres were intended to

serve as a warning to the

Taiwanese investors

reacted nervously to the reports, with the local bourse

plunging 132.03 points, or

2.42 per cent, Monday to finish at 5,312.94 points.

After the tumble, the Cen-

tral News Agency (CNA) re-

leased three articles retract-

ing its earlier report on the

military manoeuvres and

apologising to its readers for what it claimed "inaccurate

island, the sources said.

# U.S. military wants new 'smart' weapons

WASHINGTON (R) - The biological attack but ide U.S. military, concerned over a spreading threat from sophisticated arms, is launching a \$1 billion drive to test new "smart" weapons such as those designed to attack chemical and biological storage sites.

Defence Department officials are worried that dozens of Third World and other nations now own or can buy new missiles, radar and other equipment that threatens U.S. forces.

One month after a Bosnian Serb missile shot down a U.S. F-16 fighter, senior defence officials told an unusual public briefing last week that new concepts on the American drawing board set for demonstrations in one to three years

- Improved miniature decoys to be launched in waves from aircraft to confuse defences and protect U.S. warplanes from anti-aircraft mis-

siles. - Laser beams that foil enemy anti-ship missiles and make them crash harmlessly into the sea.

- Detectors that not only might determine whether a U.S. base or scaport is under the agent for quick use of

medical counter-measures. High-explosive cruise missiles and bombs which could "safely" destroy underground nuclear, chemical or biological weapons sites. The package would include sensors to detect release of deadly plutonium or nerve agents.

Defence Under-Secretary Paul Kaminski told reporters that \$1 billion which will be spent on the new concepts in 1996 financial year beginning in October is more than the total spent on demonstrating such new programmes in the

But the effort is well worth the cost, Mr. Kaminski stressed, citing the West's overwhelming use of high-tech weapons to smash lrag's military forces in the 1991

Gulf war. He said that while details of most of the programmes were secret, the key to testing the effectiveness of such weapons was to make sure that troops who will use them are involved in the whole

"The real issue here... is not simply in developing the best technology or even building the best equipment,

of people and equipment in

the field to use it wisely," Mr. Kaminski told reporters. Some of the new concepts will fail, officials said, while others such as ongoing research on pilotless spy planes and counter-measures for undersea mines have shown

very encouraging results. 'They (mines) are, in effect, the poor man's great equaliser," said Assistant Deputy Under-Secretary Lou

Marquet.
"We've had some very unpleasant experiences with mines in the past. It is crucial for-us to address the threat as rapidly as we possibly can." he said

The United States is currently sending its new un-manned "Predator" spyplane to Albania for remotecontrolled flights over Bosnia to provide NATO peacekeepers with information on Serbian and Bosnian government forces.

But Mr. Kaminski said that an even more sophisticated high-altitude UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) will be built that can fly for about 40 hours and cover 40,000 square nautical miles in a

#### China slams U.S. allegations on handling of human rights activist BEUING (AFP) - China case of Mr. Wu, who had

Tuesday rejected Washington's allegations that it had violated consular agreements over the case of detained U.S. citizen Harry Wu - and instead accused U.S. officials of acting without authorisation.

"As far as we are concerned, we have all along honoured the Sino-U.S. consular agreement," Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian said when asked about U.S. allegations that Beijing had failed to comply with a requirement to allow consular access to detained U.S. nationals within 48 hours.

While denying violating the agreement, Mr. Chen acknowledged that although the Foreign Ministry had conveyed the U.S. "proposal" to pay a visit to human rights activist Wu, detained on June sinations and drug traffick- 19, to the relevant Chinese departments, "we have yet to get a reply.

But he added that, far from China being in the wrong, it was the U.S. side that had "not only repeatedly violated the consular agreement but went back on its word on a lot of major political issues." While the "political issues"

remark clearly referred to Washington's decision to allow a visit by Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui in June, Mr. Chen declined to elaborate on his allegations over consular matters.

However, he said Beijing was "dissatisfied" that "without the approval of the Chinese side, officials from the U.S. embassy m China directly carried out their functions in the localities of China" over the matter of Mr. Wu.

He was referring to a trip

by a U.S. consular official to

far-northwestern Xinjiang to

try to track down Mr. Wu, 58, a former Chinese citizen and long-time political prisoner who was detained as he tried to enter the province through the Horgas pass from Kazakhstan.

Mr. Chen also rejected U.S. Under-Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff's allegation that China had sent the U.S. side on a wild-goose chase, saying simply that the accusation was based on "faise" information.

Mr. Tarnoff summoned China's charge d'affairs in Washington Monday to complain that the U.S. consular official who travelled to Xinjiang had been told on arrival that the hotel where Chinese officials in Beijing had said Mr. Wu was being held did not exist and that no information was available on him.

Mr. Chen said public

security authorities were con-

tinuing investigations into the

"rpeatedly sneaked into China by using an alias" and, without approval, entered non-open areas and organisations "to conduct illegal activities.' There are certain coun-

tries in the world who like to tell other countries what to do and how to do it. That is a pretty bad habit, which will not do good for the settlement of the issue," he said, adding that the competent departments of China would make a "just" decision on Mr. Wu's case.

The activist's detention comes at a time of tense Sino-U.S. relations due to Beijing's fury over the visit of President Lee of Taiwan, which China regards as a renegade province.
Mr. Chen accused

Washington of playing up Mr. Wa's case, as well as making wrong allegations

that China had violated international treaties by shipping M-11 missiles to Pakistan, to divert attention from its responsibility for causing the deterioration in Sino-U.S. ties by allowing Mr. Lee's

"It is utterly groundless to turn a case that is a purely consular matter into a political issue. If the U.S. side is bent on doing that, the responsibility will be solely born by the U.S. side," said Mr. Chen. State Department spokes-

man Nicholas Burns described Monday the Chinese behaviour over Mr. Wu as "completely unacceptable." However, he said.

Washington was not yet prepared to take retaliatory steps, hoping instead to clear up the matter through "private dialogue."

Mr. Wu, who spent 19

years in Chinese prison camps before emigrating to the United States, is an outspoken critic of the country's penal system.

His detention is believed to be related to a trip last year, during which he helped with the secret filming of a documentary alleging that China sells organs removed from executed prisoners for transplant operations.

Meanwhile, leading Chinese dissident Liu Gang said Tuesday that he had been given a 10-day jail sentence for failing to report to the police authorities following his release from prison two weeks ago,

A dozen police came to his parents' home in northeastern Jilin province at 9:00 a.m. (0100 GMT) Tuesday and forced him to accompany them to the local police station, Mr. Liu said by telephone.

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NEW DELHI (AFP) - Sanjay Dutt, the macho-man of bomb blasts in Bombay two and for which bail is not available. Son of a former gress (I) Party, Dutt was popular as India's "Sylvester Stallone" in Bombay, hub of India's booming film industry, because of the tough-guy The muscular, long-haired Dutt is charged with illegally pects directly involved in the March 12, 1993 blasts which killed at least 300 people in one of the world's deadliest urban terror attacks.

shooting off a few rounds towards the roof and asking for a round of Martinis for

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# ahead of Armenia high tension following the banning of several opposition

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## *i*sband

(AFP) — A jilted s husband took his wife mailing 3 heir love-making ier boxes on her British press resday. Six weeks Ryan, 33, left her m, she found that D copies of their ideos were in the r customers. The enge was told in hown Court in England, when was cleared of to murder his wife ing a breadknife id stabbing her in ring an argument

## Anti-nuclear protest hits French embassy in Rome

ROME (R) — Five activists available for comment. in red boiler suits abseiled .. Mr. Chirac's announcedown the front of the French embassy in Rome Tuesday and unfurled a banner condemning President Jacques Chirac's decision to resume the South Pacific and elsenuclear testing in the South where. Pacific.

Reuters iournalists outside the 16th century Farnese Palace, where the embassy is housed in central Rome, said the protesters from the environmental group Greenpeace used ropes to hang from the facade, part of which was designed by Michelangelo.

Dressed in red boiler suits, they unfurled a banner which showed the French leader with a radioactive symbol above his head and carried the words "stop Chirac."

They were joined on a balcony of the embassy by Gianna Nannini, one of Italy's top rock stars, who had entertained about 200 demonstrators in the square with songs including "Monsieur Le President" from atruck in front of the building.

The six were brought down from the balcony on a fire engine ladder and had their identities noted by police. Mannini descended amid cheers after grabbing hold of the French flag.

Minor scuffles between police and demonstrators occurred during the one-hour

French diplomats were not

ment last month to resume tests from September on the Mururoa Atoll whipped up a storm of protest throughout

Australia and New Zealand have taken the strongest stands against, the resumed French testing, freezing de-fence ties with Paris and clouding the prospects of French defence contractors. Rainbow Warrior II, the

greenpeace flagship, set course on Monday for Мигигоа. About a hundred testing

opponents saw the boat off as it left Tahiti for the sail of about a thousand kms (600 miles), which Greenpeace estimated would take three of four days.

"We sail for Mururoa with the knowledge that the Tahitians and millions of people around the world support us and demand an end to nuclear testing everywhere and forever." Greenpeace official jean-luc thierry said as the ship left Papeete, according to a statement released by Greenpeace France in Paris. President Chirac "has seriously understimated public opposition to the resump-

On board were 31 antinuclear activists and journal-

Thierry said.

tion of nuclear testing in

France, in Tahiti and at the

international level." Mr.

ists including left-wing bishop Jacques Gaillot, fired from his French diocese by Pope John Paul this year, and Polynesian independence campaigner Oscar Temaru,

Greenpeace's goal is to sail to Mururoa by July 10, the 10th anniversary of the bombing and sinking of the original Rainbow Warrior by French secret agents in New

Zealand. French officials have said they will not allow the ship and its whole crew within 12 nautical miles of the atoll. Mr. Chirac's approval of

eight nuclear tests has angered many Tabitians and other South Pacific residents fearful of radiation contamination and environmental damage. It also has sparked new life

into the French Polynesian independence movement. France is the South Pacific's last colonial power and controls three territories. French Polynesia. New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

Independence movements in the territories have traditionally been linked to nuclear testing, rising at the height of opposition to testing in the 1980s and ebbing after the testing Moratorium adopted by Paris in 19092. The Rainbow Warrier II

had arrived in the Tabitian capital Papeete a day earlier, where anti-testing protesters had virtually paralysed the

city for the previous three days by blockading major roads and clogging the streets with marches.

But the road blocks lifted Sunday, allowing a return to normality on the island by the time the Rainbow Warrior

In Perth, Australia, police Tuesday charged a man and a woman over last month's firebombing of the French consulate in the West Australian

The firebombing followed France's decision to resume nuclear testing in the Pacific. University student Bosco Boskovich, 20, and an unemployed woman, Mayak Catts, 21, have been charged with damage by fire, detective John Gisson told reporters in

No one was hurt in the June 17 blaze, immediately claimed as the work of a group calling itself the Pacific Popular Front. •

Investigations showed the

group was a creation of the accused, Mr. Gibson said. "I think this was something they made up on the spur of the moment," he said. Boskovich and Catts are being .held in police custody and will appear in court in Perth Wednesday morning, he

"I would suggest the antinuclear movement was not involved in this," Mr. Gibson

## Judge gives Berlusconi a reprieve until September

MILAN (R) - A judge Tuesday postponed until September a decision on whether Italy's former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi should stand trial on corruption charges connected to his media empire.

Judicial sources said Judge Fabio Paparella, presiding over the commital hearing, had agreed to a request from defence lawyers for Mr. Berlusconi and 20 other suspects for more time to study new prosecution documents.

Judge Paparella last month also turned down a request by investigating magistrates for the businessman-turnedpolitician to stand trial over. alleged tax fraud on a proper-

His latest decision meant Mr. Berlusconi, who did not attend the closed-door hearing but was represented by two lawyers in court, must wait until Sept. 20 for a decision that could boost or bust es political aspirations.

It also dimmed the pros-

pect of an early general election in the autumn. Political commentators believe Mr. Berlusconi may not want to risk a return to the polls with the possibility of a trial bang-

ing over him. They said a decision to prosecute Mr. Berlusconi could kill off his short but spectacular political career while a move in his favour would boost his campaign to regain the premiership.

A fresh hearing cannot be held before September as Italian courts close from July 15 to Sept. 15. The delay should also

allow a batch of documents on bank accounts, which were seized recently in Switzerland, to be returned to Italy for examination before a decision is made on whether to commit Mr. Berlusconi to trial.

"mani pulite" (clean hands) magistrates have accused Mr. Berlusconi of complicity in the payment by companies in his Fininvest media empire of alleged bribes to tax police in return for lenient audits between 1989 and 1991.

They also accuse him of complicity in the payment of an alleged bribe to tax inspectors investigating the ownership structure of Telepiu, a pay TV business in which Fininvest officially has a 10 per cent stake.

They asked in May for Mr. Berlusconi and the 20 others to stand trial, Mr. Berlusconi, ousted as prime minister last December after seven months in office, has said the payments were extorted from Fiminvest executives by rapacious tax officials. "

He denied any knowledge of the payments, totalling 330 million lire (\$200,000), at the time they were made and says he is the victim of a political

witch hunt by magistrates. The best know of them. former magistrate Antonio Di Pietro who quit the clean hands team last December.

hours Sunday by magistrates investigating whether he had acted illegally in his enauiries.

Laywers for Finance Police General Giuseppe Cerciello have accused Mr. Di Pietro of using unorthodox methods to get suspects to make incriminating statements against him and Mr. Berlusconi.

Those accused with Mr. Berlusconi include his younger brother and business associate Paolo. Fininvest tax adviser Salvatore Sciascia and senior members of the Finance Police.

A separate commital session opened in Milan Monday to decide whether senior managers of Mr. Berlusconi's advertising company Publitalia should stand trial for corruption.

In that case, prosecutors have filed charges against 37 people, including former managing director Marcello Dell'utri, of false accounting, tax evasion and misappropwas himself questioned for 18 riation of funds.

## 8 more killed in Karachi; media crackdown escalates

KARACHI (AFP) — Eight people were killed by gunfire Tuesday as security forces continued their search for arms and militants, and two more newspapers were banned in an escalating media crackdown, police and officials said.

A policeman and a civilian were shot dead in western Orangi district, where a siege by some 1,000 police and paramilitary soldiers to seize

illegal arms and gunmen entered a third day, the officials Six other people were kil-

led by snipers in other parts of the city, as violence persisted despite agreement between the government and

the opposition Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) to hold talks in Islamabad on Thursday. In the central district of

Jalalabad, gunmen attacked a police vehicle, causing minor injuries to five occupants. police said.

The intensity of the violence appears to have de-

clined after last month's bloodshed in which more than 350 people were killed. Newspaper industry sources said the government of southern Sindh province had withdrawn publishing permission for 120 planned newspapers and banned two more evening papers in Karachi, capital of Sindh.

# Japan ruling parties defend odd-ball coalition

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ruling parties hit back Tuesday at critics of their left-right coalition, saying they were introducing a new mood of harmony and running the country as smoothly as ever. "An age of coalition gov-

ernments has begun, and though we don't know how long this will continue, people should think what the right combination of parties ," said Yoshiro Mori. secretary-general of the Liberal Democratic Party "A coalition should in-

clude the biggest party," he

Mr. Mori was speaking as parties were starting their

campaigns this week for the July 23 elections to the upper house, which is less powerful than the lower house.

However, lawmakers are aware the poll is the first at the natinoal level since the LDP lost its grip on power in 1993, and will be the public's first direct judgement of the three-party coalition government.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has said the coalition will receive a renewed mandate from the people if it maintains the 75 seats it holds out of the 126 at stake. But senior officials in his Socialist Party have said he should step down if the party is

When the coalition was formed a year ago, it was criticised as an unholy alliance of former enemies, intent on grabbing power without regard to principle. During the LDP's fourdecade rule to 1993, the Socialists had opposed it

fiercely. The cabinet is also accused of being uneven. Although the LDP, the largest party in parliament, is the dominant force in policy making, Mr. Mutrayama is a Socialist. Mr. Mori said coalition

politics was good for the nation. "For a long time there was vicious opposition be-tween the LDP and the

look for points in common." The parties have so far managed to patch up even their worst spats, including last month's row over the wording of a resolution to commemorate 50 years since the end of World War II, and have already lasted a year.

Wataru Kuso, secretarygeneral of the Socialist Party said the balance of power was a source of stability.

"If one party in the coalition became much larger than the others, the coalition would cease to function properly," he told a news conference. "The coalition government is becoming more and Socialists," he said. "Now we more like a single party."

# Cambodian army, rebels battle near Battambang

BATTAAMBANG, Cambodia (AFP) - Khmer Rouge guerrillas and government troops were locked in fierce battle Tuesday, with the rebels seizing a key government outpost as they attempt to advance on Battambang, the country's second-largest city,

military official said. Having fought to within 20 kilometres of the northwestern city of Battambang the Khmer Rouge guerrillas pulled back, but have secured the last government position on the road to the rebels' major stronghold near the Thai border, military and

police officials said Tuesday. The fighting was described as "intense" with the rebels, supported by seven tanks, 82 millimetre mortars and 75 and 122 millimetre artillery. firing several anti-aircraft guns captured from the army. Casualty figures were unclear from the fighting, which began early Monday. At least eight soldiers have been injured in hand-to-hand combat and four soldiers were listed as missing in action, according to officials in Bat-

At least six civilians have also been injured, their wounds attributed to artillery shells, the officials said.

In addition, at least 1,000 villagers, who recently returned to nearby villages have fled again, and were taking temporary shelter behind government lines.

The rebel's northeasterly advance, began early Monday on either side of National Route 10 and at one point put them within 20 kilometres of Battambang town before it was checked, the officials

While the 350 to 400 guerrillas have moved back from that position, they have captured the government outpost at Treng about 42 kilometres southwest of Battambang town, a senior military official in the village of. Sdao about six kilometres away told AFP.

He said the Khmer Rouge were attacking the slopes of Phnom Sdan, a mountain just to the west of the village, and attempting to cut off government troops in between there and the front line.

In Battambang town itself, the deputy provincial police chief remained optimistic about the situation.

"The Khmer Rouge have not retreated but our forces will not retreat either," said Chan Kosal. "We don't know how the situation will change tomorrow, but we think it will not worsen. Our soldiers are doing their jobs very

The Khmer Rouge captured Treng, a small collection of huts and military barracks along the road to the rebels' stronghold at Pailin, in early May and held it for a week before governemnt reinforcements from other areas of the country arrived and helped to drive them out.

Reinforcements did not appear to be heading to the front line Monday or Tuesday, and stockpiles of weapons and ammunition stored near the Battambang airport seemed to be nntouched.

# S. Korean president sacks top aide after store collapse

SEOUL (AFP) - South Ko- centre officials said. The disrean President Kim Young-Sam sacked his influential right-hand man Tuesday in a partial reshuffle of his ruling camp, battered by an election defeat and the tracic

collapse of a shopping mall. The presidential office said that Kim Duk-Ryong, secret-ary general of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), was replaced by Kim Yoon-Hwan, minister for political affairs.

With hopes for new survivors quickly diminishing five days after the nation's worst peacetime disaster, rescuers Tuesday dug out six more bodies including the crushed body of a 10-year-old boy from the debris, raising the official death toll to 118. But the number reported

missing by relatives shot up to 393 Tuesday, some of them double-counted, relief aster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush fivestorey Sampoong store

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading the ruling camp's campaign for last week's landmark local polls to a humiliating defeat.

Thursday.

The change coincided with a DLP caucus in which ruling party leaders voiced shock and concern about mounting pub-lic disillusionment with the Kim administration.

"The public are increasingly alienated from us, Yonhap News Agency

Choon-Koo as saying as other ruling party leaders urged the government to win back public support by

accelerating reforms. As rescuers continued searching for survivors, helped by special military cameras, the U.S. military here announced a decision Tnesday to downscale its tra-

ditional July 4 celebration.
U.S. military spokesman
Mike Sullivan said that an annual fireworks display had been cancelled, in consideration of the feelings of the Korean people.

Public sentiment here has mounted this week especially over the unchecked greed that permitted shoddy construction for extra profits an attitude nurtured by the country's headlong rush for economic growth.

"The building's architect

quoted DLP Chairman Lee should be held responsible." newly-elect Seoul Mavor Cho Soon told a cabinet meeting Tuesday, as newspapers detailed a litary of unsupervised alterations to the store, including moving

> support pillars. The mayor also denounced disorderly rescue work, saying the government needs trained personnel and more equipment to cope with cala-

At the meeting, the Home Ministry proposed a new "calamity control law" to upgrade the function of fire denarrments whose work was Often hampered by lack of authority in the crucial phase

of the rescue operations. The chaotic state of **Emergency Services was** blamed on the loss of some lives which experts here said would have otherwise been

## Fighting threatens Russian, Chechen peace talks

MOSCOW (R) - Chechenya's peace talks were under threat Tuesday when Russia accused the rebels of violating a ceasefire and serious differences emerged over a political settlement in the

breakaway region. President Boris Yeltsin issue a decree for a permanent Russian army presence in Chechenya, signalling that Moscow does not see the territory becoming indepen-

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Moscow's Defence Ministry as saying rebels had attacked a Russian post at the gateway to Chechenya's captial Grozny overnight using grenades and heavy

machineguns. The attack was repelled after an bour of fighting, it

Fighting was also reported near the rebel-held village of Bamut, 50 kilometres to the southwest of Grozny, the military said. It added that the Chechens kept firing on two other Russian positions in the southeast...

One Russian soldier was killed and one wounded,

TASS said. The status of Chechenya, which rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev declared independent in 1991, is an unresolved issue at the talks at which the Organisation for Security and

Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is mediating. The talks were adjourned Monday to allow for more consultations and are sche-

dule dto resume Thursday. They were initiated by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin after Chechen gunmen raided the southern Russian town of Budennovsk last month and

took hundreds of hostages. Both sides have agreed on a truce and a tentative plan for disengagement. But spor-

adic fighting continued amid mutual accusations of ceasefire violations. Top Chechen negotiator Usman Imayev told Ekho Moskvy radio station Mon-

day that his side had been

unable to keep its promise to

destroy some of its heavy

weapons because of Russian

bombing. He said Russian planes had dropped 20 heavy bombs in the area where the weapons had been collected for destruction.

"In such a situation we consider it impossible to destroy the armour," Mr. Imavev said. "We might need it, though we do not want to use

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, widely accused of indiscriminate use of force in Russia's military campaign to quell Chechenya's independence drive, said Tuesday he hoped for a positive outcome of the talks.

But Gen. Grachev, who emerged unscathed from a political crisis in Moscow last week and appears to retain the confidence of Mr. Yeltsin, made clear he distanced himself from the peace

In remarks quoted by Interfax News Agency, he warned that the rebels could use the truce to regroup and prepare to attack.

Mr. Yeltsin's decree Tuesday for the Russian Armed Forces to stay in Chechenya effectively restored the legal status lost in 1992 when troops pulled out in the face

of separatist pressure. Arkady Volsky, deputy head of the Moscow delegatin, said that during nearly four hours of talks early Monday Mr. Dudayev had offered to resign if Russia recognised Chechenya's

sovereignty.
Mr. Volsky said he and Mr. Dudayev had discussed Moscow's proposed "zero option," under which Mr. Dudavev and the heads of the Moscow-installed Chechen government would resign to pave the way for elections

later this year. But Mr. Imayev told Ekho Moskvy radio the "zero option" had not been discussed at the talks. He also insisted Mr. Dudavev had made clear he had offered to quit in exchange for independence something Moscow is sure

## Thai alliance adds 7th party to form government

BANGKOK (AFP) - An Ministry appeared to be a tangled traffic problems, but drug trafficking. alliance planning to form stumbling block, claimed by so was Prachakorn Thai. Thailand's next government added a seventh member Tuesday, as parties hammered out the distribution of protfolios amid reports of

rivalry for key ministries. "The new coalition will be R seven-party coalition," Banharn Silpa-Archa, head of the alliance's leading party, Chart Thai, said outside

his residence. The addition of the Nam Thai Party, which won 18 seats in Sunday's elections, was "not to make parliament a dictatorship but to give stability to the government, Mr. Banharn said. Chart Thai took the election with 92

The addition of Nam Thai to the alliance would give it a total of 233 seats, leaving the opposition, led by the Democrats of outgoing Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, with 158 seats. Mr. Banharn said that

Nam Thai leader Amnuay Virawan would be made a deputy prime minister charged with international economic affairs, but did not elaborate. He later said cabinet allocations would be

announced Wednesday.

three narties -- Chart Thai New Aspiration Party (NAP) with 57 seats and Palang Dharma (PDP) with 23 seats. The business community was keeping an eye on appiontments to crucial eco-

nomic affairs positions, in-

cluding the Finance Ministry,

letting it be known that technocrats would be preferable to politicians. Traders at the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) however, seemed confident, sending the index up 1.96 per cent, easily recouping Monday's 1:05-per cent drop attri-

buted to post-election litters. "The emergence of a new coalition is more clear, and outsiders and non-MPs seem (likely) to control key ministries." Boonsom Kasapradit of Credit Lyonnais Securities said. "This gave a sentimented boost to the SET."

Alliance efforts received a welcome endorsement from army chief General Wimol Wongwanich, who said the military intended to respect the voters' choice, according to local press reports Tues-

In alliance negotiations, the PDP was insisting on taking charge of Bangkok's

which won seats in the election. Both parties have a strong Bangkok base which expects action on traffic. Prachakorn Thai leader

Samak Sundaravej worried

businessmen when he said Monday that his party wanted to scrap an elevated train system already under construction and a planned expressway segment over a Muslim community. On Monday, the six original alliance parties agreed to

allot one portfolio, of minister or deputy minister rank. for each 4.5 seats won. Debate on which portfolios would go to which parties continued late Tuesday. The Bangkok Post commented Tuesday that the

horse-trading indicated that holding political power "seems to remain more important to them than efficient government for the greater good of the country as a whole.' Mr. Banharn has so far refused to name potential

cabinet appointees, or to con-

firm whether he plans to in-

clude top aides who have been refused U.S. entry visas

and the U.S."

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said that the appointment of individuals denied U.S. visas on such grounds "obviously could complicate the bilateral relationship between Thailand

A member of the Chart Thai executive, Chaumphol Silpa-Archa, younger brother of Mr. Banham, said Tuesday that "any MP who won election should be treated with equal rights and legitimacy.

government spokesman said Tuesday that a royal decree to convene parliament on July 10 had been drafted and submitted for royal

approval. Mr. Banharn met briefly with the U.S. ambassador to Thailand Tuesday amid U.S. concern over cabinet

appointments here. Mr. Banharn, accompanied by Amnuay Virawan. leader of Nam Thai Party and member of a seven-party alliance with Chart Thai, arrived at a U.S. Independence Day celebration and spoke briefly with Ambassador

#### The powerful Interior because of alleged links to David Lambertson. Ghali urges steps to fight Africa's poverty

GENEVA (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali urged the world community Tuesday to give top priority to combating what he called the extreme poverty sweeping Africa.

Addressing a session of the U.N. Economic and Social Council, he proposed a plan including a boost in aid and urgent action to tackle the problem of African debt at a time when many states owe so much they can never hope to герау. Dr. Ghali spoke against

the backdrop of a new report by the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) showing how multinational investors who have flooded into the Third World over the past decade have largely - and it argues wrongly - spurned Africa. The report, published LDCs, 33 were African. Tuesday, said that while fore-

ign direct investment (FDI)

in developing countries has quadrupled since the mid-

1980s, flows into Africa have

remained stagnant, slashing

the continent's share of FDI

in the Third World from

more than 11 per cent to around five per cent. The African continent, the U.N. chief said, "represents our most urgent priority in

terms of the need for the

solidarity of the international

community."

Despite some hopeful economic signs - m 1995, the growth of total output on the continent reached its highest level in six years — "the current improvement in growth rates is still much too light to compensate for the

lag accumulated over 15 years of economic decline." Last year, Dr. Ghali said, the U.N. General Assembly had added two more African countries to the list of least developed countries (LDCs) while only one graduated from that list, meaning that of 48 officially designated

The U.N. chief set out several directions in which the world body should move in order to sustain the development of the countries of

"The United Nations

must help Africa to strengthen its regional structures." He called for strengthening cooperation with the Organisation of African Unity, and a greater readiness for the U.N.'s Economic Commission for Africa to step forward.

- "The United Nations absolutely must help African countries to diversify their economies. Africa's products have to be allowed access to foreign markets. It must be fully recognised that Africa is the only region in the world that may be hurt by the Uruguay Round agreements."

- The international community must "decide at long last to take on the nagging problem of world debt." The outstanding principle of Africa's long-term debt now arrounted to \$37 billion, half the outstanding debt of the entire Third World. Only six of the continent's 21 most indebted nations could hope to pay off their debt, even

under the softest terms. - The world community must not only maintain but

raise its level of assistance to Africa, the only developing region not to benefit from the recent rise in private capital

flows. A particular cause for alarm was the fact that the United States' share in total official development assistance to African countries fell from 17 per cent 10 years ago to 12 per cent in 1992-93, a reduction only balanced by a boost in the European Unjon's share, now 40 per cent of the total.

Dr. Ghali said the United Nations should help African countries to establish social institutions and back their efforts to improve public education and vocational training. "Nothing will be possible

munity... unless African men and women take their fate into their own hands," the U.N. chief concluded. "The United Nations must

for the international com-

ask Africans themselves all Africans — to become the driving force behind development efforts."

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#### Wanted — a new look

WE AGREE with French President Jacques Chirac that Iraq must abide by U.N. resolutions before the sanctions, imposed on it after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. are lifted. But that should be the case without any additional conditions that are not originally included in the U.N. resolutions.

As His Majesty King Hussein said Monday in Paris there is a growing movement to see an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people. Apart from the U.S. and Britain, which insist on a change in the Iraqi leadership, the remaining Security Council members — France, China and Russia — have been showing signs that they are willing to ease if not end the sanctions.

The efforts of the three culminated in an offer early this year that Iraq rejected out of fear that the arrangement might turn into a permanent one.

Now that the chairman of the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, is saying that Iraq has cooperated with his mission on the remaining outstanding issues related to arms control, the community of nations is obliged to once again consider the lifting of the sanctions.

Since all efforts to change the Iraqi regime have so far failed, leading only to increased hardships for the Iraqi people, the only sensible approach left to end this crisis is to start a genuine dialogue with that leadership. Once the leader of the coalition against Iraq, the U.S., starts talking to the Iraqi leadership, abandoning its declared aim of toppling the Baghdad regime, all outstanding issues could be discussed and resolved. Baghdad has made a number of pronouncements during the past few years that indicate its willingness to join the emerging new order in the Middle East and its eagerness to liberalise its political system.

Besieged and boycotted by almost all nations on earth, the only way Baghdad is expected to react is through entrenchment. Once the walls around it start to fall, its leadership will acquire the comfort and courage that would enable it to afford to step down from its hostile posture. And if the Iraqi leadership did just that, it would be an added asset to the region's fragile stability and security.

#### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

A WRITER in Al Dustour daily criticised Tuesday Rolf Ekeus, the head of a United Nations mission entrusted with ensuring that Iraq's mass destruction weapons have been destroyed, for his double-faced statement concerning his Iraqi mission. Following his latest visit to Baghdad and talks with Iraqi officials, Mr. Ekeus said that his visit was positive, meaning that the Iraqis have cooperated with him over the question of the biological weapons, said Mohammad Kawash. But. unfortunately. Mr. Ekens issues a different statement every time he returns to the United Nations, thus fuelling a U.S.-British campaign against Iraq and delaying litting of the embargo on the Iraqi people continued the writer. As soon as Mr. Ekeus makes his statement which could contain a slight criticism of Baghdad, the American media as orchestrated by the U.S. administration would start a campaign to prevent the lifting of the sanctions, said the writer. The U.S. objection to lifting the embargo is clearly motivated by trade and economic reasons because Washington realises that the French, the Russians and the Chinese are preparing to resume economic links with Baghdad as soon as the embargo has been lifted, something not in its own interest,

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily said Tuesday that the current dispute between Egypt and Sudan places Egypt face to face with a crucial test. The war of words and the tense relations following Cairo's accusation that Sudan was involved in the abortive attempt on President Hosni Mubarak's life are bound to widen the split between Arab countries as they run in conflict with Mr. Mubarak's call on the Arab Nation last March to adopt a code of honour for settling inter-Arab differences, said Mahmoud Rimawi. Egypt is called on before any other Arab state to apply this code of honour and terminate its dispute with Khartoum simply because it was Egypt which came up with the proposal and helped form a committee to bring this proposal to life, added the writer. The proposed code of honour calls on Arab states to refrain from threatening or using armed force to end their dispute with any other Arab state, he said.

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

# Arab-American organisations playing an important role

I RECENTLY received a disturbing call from an Arab friend

My friend had phoned to tell me why he could no longer continue to offer financial support to Arab-American organisations. His main reason was that he had become dismayed with U.S. Middle East policy and very pessimistic about the possibility of ever bringing about positive changes in U.S. dealings with the

His attitude is not an uncommon one. There is a deep malaise in the Arab World, and among Arab-Americans as well. The cause is concern about both U.S. foreign policy and about the effectiveness of Arab-American organisa-

It is clear that we are collectively, both Arabs and Arab-Americans, in a crisis situation. The end of the cold was and the traumatic effects of the Gulf war have left us with a shattered consensus, political confusion and, in some cases, despair. The trends and tendencies which have emerged in the Arab World all have their counterparts in the Arab-American community. One result has been a

decline in financial support for Arab-American organisations so that some of them are mere shadows of their former selves. And in the definition-less world left in the wake of the cold war and the Gulf war, all Arab-American organisations have had to withstand a crisis of self-definition. And with such serious difficulties, the organisations have had to make hard decisions. I nonetheless maintain

that despite the trauma and the malaise, our organisations have a relevant and even critical role to play and despite the difficulties. they are performing. First and foremost, our community needs organisa-

tion, defence and services. If the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing teaches anything it is that Arab-American organisations are not only relevant: They are necessary. Our organisations were able to no Arah and leaders into the national debate and influence the direction of national media

M. KAHIL

Similarly, our work on

the "Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 1995" has been somewhat successful in shaping the national debate and alerted others to the threat to civil liberties inherent in the proposals before Congress. While the legislation is still under de-bate, already some significant changes have been made, with our support, that can limit the danger this legislation could pose to the constitutional rights of all Americans.

And, as we are reminded daily, our organisations provide needed services. In Cleveland, we were recently able to direct press and civic attention to the violence suffered by Arab-American merchants in that city. The city is responding to our community concerns and action is being taken to help alleviate some of the life-threatening conditions facing Arab-American merchants in Cleveland's inner city - but they are only responding because the community was effectively organised and demanded such actions. At the same time, in Dearborn and New York City, Arab-American social services organisations provide essential language, health care, job training and counselling services to thousands of Arab-American immigrants who otherwise would have no

access to such services. On an entirely different level, todaý Arab-Americans who eye elected office come to Arab-American organisations seeking support for their campaigns. Without organisations on both the national and local levels, Arab-Americans would be unable to tap community support that other ethnic candidates regularly receive from their communities.

Similarly, while facing an arduous uphill challenge. Arab-Americans have assumed a critical role in informing the U.S. policy debate on important Middle East issues

The reality is that, during the past five years. Arab-Americans have emerged as respected interlocutors with government about key issues facing U.S.-Arab relations. For example, from

introduced his legislation to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Arab-Americans have been in news shaping the debate on this issue. We were able to challenge the senator in the press, and before the Senate and the Clinton administration.

Further, Arab-Americans have continued to play a role in informing and are invited to discuss U.S. policy towards Leba-non, the Middle East peace process and security and trade matters affecting U.S. relations with several Arab states. Obviously, the malaise in Arab and Arab-Americans regarding these issues is based on real problems - but one must recognise that part of the frustration is that things have improved on many fronts, but not yet enough.

And in response to negative official and press portrayals of Islam, Arab-American and American-Muslim organisations have made vital contributions to the national discussion.

I also have come to believe that Arab-American organisations have a role to play in projecting values. As an ethnic community we are, in fact, an American success story. We have not only survived in America, we have succeeded while preserving our values and our traditions. Our families and our attachment to them remain strong. So does our community's sense of enterprise, personal responsibility, our respect for education and our sense of hon-

These are the issues that form the centre of today's political-cultural debate in the U.S. In that debate Arab-Americans can and should play an important role. But if that is to happen, our organisations must provide leadership and encouragement, and must help create the openings that enable individual Arab-Americans the opportunity to be heard.

And finally, I believe that Arab-American organisations remain important because of the role they play the U.S. back to the Arab World, Given the critical and important role that the

U.S. plays in the post-cold war world, Arab-Americans can play a useful role in informing Arabs of the inner workings of American society and politics. One can see that our organisations are, in fact, playing that role, through the Arab media, on speaking tours (some sponsored by Arab institutions and some by U.S. agencies), and in the regular flow of Arab official visitors who come through our office to meet with us and to discuss current U.S. policy and the structure of the foreign

policy decision-making pro-

Arab-American orga-

cess in this country.

nisations are relevant and performing, and playing an important role. There are differences among the va-rious groups, but for the most part they share similar goals - and there can always be more than one path to any goal. The differences often act to reenforce the shared agenda, especially during a crisis. For example, the joint efforts in responding to the Jerusalem egislation, the Oklahoma City bombing and the anti-terrorism legislation showed how in a crisis, agendas and actions merged and the different resources cultivated by the different organisations could be put to use towards a common

While Arab-American organisations have played an important role in providing services to and organising the community, defending the Arab image, serving as a two-way bridge for information between the U.S. and Arab World they still face extremely difficult obstacles in their efforts to change U.S. Middle East policy. But in response to my Arab friends and others in the Arab World and Arab-American community, I ask: "What else will you do? What are the alternatives? If not Arab-Americans, who will help bring about those changes?

Although the squandering of enormous sums of Arab money on high-priced public relations campaigns is an old story, there is a trend to report. Several leading U.S. institutions have developed important

centres for influencing Middle East policy. They are headed by American Jews but are funded by Arabs. In fact, a recent study shows that these institutions receive more funding from Arab sources than do Arab-

American organisations. And only a few Arab embassies seek out and work with our organisations. If our relationships were closer, we would both benefit. Arab-American organisations will become stronger if the embassies work with them, and the embassies will in turn benefit if the Arab-American organisations become stronger and more re-

It is true that American-Jewish organisations are more influential than Arab-American organisations. but it is neither helpful nor useful for Arabs to continue to operate as if the only access they can receive in Washington is if Jewish organisations obtain it for In fact, I am engaged in

an ongoing debate with several prominent Arabs about this very issue. They tell me that they need to work with this or that Jewish organisation because that group can get them the appointment or forum they nced. The truth is that, given the positions held and/or the wealth possessed by the Arab friends I'm debating with, almost any-one could get them what they want. What Arabs sometimes don't seem to realise is that they are often the powerful party in a situation and they unwittingly cede too much power to others to do for them what they could do for themselves. In the process, by not asking Arab-American organisations to work with them, and by asking American Jews for help, they reinforce the very inequality of power they so lament.

In short, to my Arab and Arab-American friends who bemoan the fate of Arab American organisations and their inability to change U.S. policy, I say: We have a role to play, we are in fact playing that role and we could be even stronger if we worked more closely together.

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## By Ali Kassay Who makes the law here anyway?

GUILDS. NOW known as professional associations. started off as organisations founded by members of a profession to detend their interests. Where these organisations adopted a political position, it was to claim more not fewer rights and benefits for their members. We should ask ourselves whether our associations have done so.

The primary function of associations in Jordan seems to be protecting the standards of the profession by vetting the degrees of graduates educated abroad. This, in all fairness, is an important function which they do thoroughly.

To give further credit where credit is due, most associations have established housing projects that have enabled many members to buy mors over their heads, an acquisition which would otherwise have remained clusive. Unfortunately, some associations levy a monthly payment for their housing project whether the member wishes to be housed by the syndicate or not. One wonders if a rule will be passed one day prohibiting members from living outside the estates chosen for

On the other hand, there are areas where the associations have let their members down. For instance, the economy went through a major downturn in 1988, and again in 1990/ 1, that cut deep into people's standard of living. Nevertheless, in many professions, salaries remain far below the cost of living. Will the associations campaign for a salary scale index-linked to the real cost of living?

Another vital service that the associations fail to provide is a good library. Many scientific and professional reviews are, frankly, well beyond the budget of someone earning up to two hundred dinars a month. That is to say, beyond the reach of most Jordanians. Had the associations established good libraries with up-to-date reviews, they would have rendered an immeasurable service to their members by giving them the means to keep abreast with the latest developments in their respective fields.

Still, one would not judge the track record too harshly except for a recent twist in evenis. The professional associations appear to have set themselves as a higher political and legal authority than the executive, legislative and judicial branches of govemment put ingether. This they do by threatening to boycott any members who deal with Israelis, thus depriving these members of their liveli-

Without delving in a debate on the merits or otherwise of normalisation, and in full respect for people's right to their opinions, the question remains: By which authority do the professional associations, or anyone else for that matter, presume to penalise a citizen for holding opinions incompatible with their own? By what right can citizens be punished for carrying out activities that are permitted by the laws of the country?

This is a dangerous precedent which if permitted. would lead to highly undesirable consequences. Think of what may come next. What other modes of thought or behaviour may they choose to dictate or prohibit in disregard of the law? How many other bodies will start playing the same game? Has Jordan opted for democracy, only to succumb to dictatorship by

the professional associations? In assuming the powers of legislator, judge, jury and executioner, the associations have clearly trespassed where they have no boxiness whatsoever. Should they persist in this 'big brother is watching you posture, it may be time to review the rule that compels all members of a profession to belong to the association Professionals should then have the right to found an alternative representative body that concerns itself with the functions for which it was established, and beyond that,

minds its own business.



# S.and China—sliding towards confrontation?

By Carol Giacomo Reuter

WASHINGTON - An increasingly rigid standoff be-tween China and the United States has raised the ominous prospect of a decline in relations from imperfect engagement to outright confrontation.

The two sides are not there yet but there are disturbing signs that one of the world's key strategic relationships has gone into a freefall from which it may not soon recover.

The signs include Beijing's detention on June 19 Chinese-American activist Harry Wu, mounting aggravation in Beijing over improved U.S.-Taiwan links and China's continued refusal to hold senior-level

talks with Washington. The immediate trigger for plummeting Sino-American ties was Presi-

dent Bill Clinton's decision to grant a visa — for the first time — to Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui so he could attend a reunion last month at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he had stu-

Mr. Clinton added a new twist recently when he lifted trade sanctions imposed on Taiwan last year to persuade it to curb the trade in rhinoceros and tiger parts to help efforts to conserve the endangered animals.

But in truth, U.S.-China relations never fully recovered from Beijing's violent 1989 crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrators in the capital's Tianenmen

Square.
That episode stoked a punitive policy towards China — over human rights abuses, arms sales to unsavory states and a growing trade surplus - that became increasingly driven by domestic politics and Con-

Mr. Clinton, who accused predecessor George Bush of coddling Beijing. contributed to that punitive climate by initially linking progress on human rights with trade benefits.

But he abandoned that approach in 1994 when it seemed not to influence China and threatened to adversely affect U.S. business.

Some experts said this shift proved to Berjing that pressure works, while the earlier confrontational approach - and the visa for Mr. Lee that reversed 16 years of U.S. policy -- encouraged the view among some Chinese clite that the United States is trying to keep China weak and di-

American experts say domestic politics are also at work in Beijing where the struggle to succeed ailing Deng Xiaoping is under-

way.
While Washington's emphasis has been on the desire for contractive engagement with Beijing on a broad range of issues, even the top Asia policymaker, Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, acknowledged last week that a more confrontational relationship could evolve.

Tensions have only gotten worse with Mr. Wu's detention. U.S. officials have asked repeatedly for high-level dialogue to begin to stabilise ties and China has not replied.

Critics, like James Lilley, U.S. ambassador to China during the Tianeamen Square tragedy, contend a more creative approach is needed, perhaps including dispatch of a nongovernment prestigious emissary to Beijing.
It may be difficult for Mr. Clinton to have credibility with China because of his earlier stance linking trade benefits to rights and because of his reputation as a leader preoccupied with domestic issues, they say.

But it is going to take that kind of top-level leadership to craft and promote an approach that could lead to a compromise with Beijing before the deterioration in relations worsens and Congress may be prompted to exert control again,

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms started the process recently, writing to Secretary of State Warren Christopher: "It must be made clear, in no uncertain terms, that should harm come to Harry Wu while he is in Chinese custody, there will be severe implications for China in the U.S. Con-

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# Features

By G. H. Jansen

GAZA - Anyone who, at

one time, may have

admired Yasser Arafat, the

Chairman of the Palestine

Liberation Organisation,

and even referred to him as

"Mr. Palestine," as this cor-

respondent and many of his

colleagues did should not

go to Gaza, to see how the first Palestinian self-rule

area is faring one year after

Mr. Arafat's "return" to

the Palestinian self-rule en-

Because in Gaza a visitor

with any contact with the

local people is over-

whelmed by their endless

stories of woe and misery,

mostly caused by 27 years

of neglect by the Israeli

occupier, and by misgov-

ernment and inefficiency,

for which Mr. Arafat, as the

supreme boss of the en-

clave, is directly responsi-

ble. But one does not ex-

pect the foreign occupier to

be a beneficient ruler, and

the Israelis certainly were

not that. One does expect

that the first Palestinian rul-

er of the first quasi-

independent Palestinian

area to make of it a model

and an exemplar - which is

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Thus, the Israelis are re-

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Palestinians, during the in-

# In Gaza, the tale is of woe not misery the water supply is polluted.

So those who can afford it drink bottled mineral water brought, at considerable expense, from Egypt. And the water supply is polluted because this city, or this large town of 350,000 has no underground sewage system: The untreated sewage either runs into the ground, directly or through septic tanks, or into the sea. There are unpolluted wa-

ter springs in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, and along the eastern, desert edge of the Strip, but that water is being pumped into the Israeli water system. And so far the self-rule authority, that is to say Mr. Arafat, has done nothing to regain this expropriated water for the citizens of Gaza to whom it rightly belongs.

The sewage going into the sea has killed off inshore fish and since the Israelis, for security reasons, do not allow Gaza fishermen to go more than nine miles from shore, what these fishermen do is go down the coast into Egyptian waters and there buy the catch, refrigerate it and then sell it in Gaza as their catch: And very nice fish it

But it is Mr. Arafat and his ramshakle "authority" that must take the blame for the fact that tower blocks are now being built, one is 18 stories high, in or



aus enjoy a day on the Gaza beach. The reopening of beaches is one of the limited benefits the self-rule and the PNA have brought to Gazans (AFP photo)

very near to the desperately poor run-down slums. Such buildings are in defiance of

a regulation that there should be no building of more than nine stories, but

for which Mr. Arafat himself signs special exemp-tions. And, what is more, these high buildings too are not linked to any sewage

And who lives in these new tower blocks? The members of the "Authority," police or bureaucrats or rich individuals who can afford the rents. The housing situation in Gaza is very similar to that in Beirut, a lot of buildings but little or none of it for the basic infrastructure.

The Israelis are responsible for the fact that fruit and vegetables, of good quality, are cheap in Gaza because Israel blocks their export to their traditional market in Israel where they would compete with more expensive and lower quality Israeli produce. So one sees long lines of Gaza trucks, laden with fruit and vegetables, waiting at Israeli checkpoints for hours and days where the hot sun of summer spoils the produce. And, of course, Gaza farmers suffer from the low prices for which they are forced to sell. There is the same Israeli ban (for despite talk to the contrary. Israel still rules the roost in "seif-rule" Gaza) on Gaza importing goods from Arab countries. So that, for instance, all cement which is badly needed for reconstruction, has to come from Israel even though it costs twice the price of cement from nearby Egypt.

The Israelis are also insisting that all Gazan im-

ports from abroad come through the Israeli port of Ashdod, and not through Egyptian ports. That means delays and extra expense: One international construction company in Gaza found that it took two days to bring in an empty con-

Despite their many complaints Gazans are unanimous in mentioning one positive advantage of selfrule: They no longer to put up with the sight of Israeli soldiers and curfew, some of which lasted for days on end, and no shooting of young men in the streets for throwing stones.

In particular, after 27 years, Gazans can now stroll or bask or play on the beach which, again for 'security reasons," was forbidden to them under the occupation. But they are also discovering that swimming is dangerous because of the untreated sewage in the sea. Also, because of administrative corruption the Palestine Authority has allowed much of the beach to be fenced off from the public by new hotels, beach clubs and restaurants, which can afford the bribes. Thus, the proscribed freedom for Gazan families to stroll along the beaches in the cool of the evening does not compensate for the adverse aspects of the oneman rule of Yasser Arafat.

# A capital in glory, a city in disgrace

#### By Sonya Ross Mitchell Landsberg The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The buses rumble up to the Washington monument, one after another, discharging respectful tourists onto a green and ordered landscape. They have come to see the U.S. capital, reflecting the best of what the U.S. can be.

But the Washington they don't see is an affront to American ideals. This is Washington.

D.C., in 1995: - The police chief resigned, saying things were so bad that some officers couldn't file search warrants because they had run out of the proper forms.

- Department of Public Works crews were reduced until only six workers were left to cut city-owned grass. Near the U.S. Soldier's and Airmen's Home, weeds stand 1.5 metres high.

- A study found 42 per cent of the city's black male population in prison or jail, on probation or parole or being sought.

- Schools began late because of fire code violations and closed early to save

 The district building, the equivalent of city hall, ran out of toilet paper after the supplier complained he

wasn't heing paid. "Here we are the richest

country in the world, our nation's capital, our big D.C. budget of 3.2 billion (and we have) run out of toilet paper," lamented Mayor Marion Barry. "That's embarrassing."

- Four of the city's 15 dilapidated health clinics were closed due to lack of money at a time when the AIDS virus is spreading more quickly in Washington than any other major U.S. city. At D.C, General Hospital, help of last resort for the poor, two of the three doctors treating AIDS patients resigned. The hospital has occasionally run short of medicine and bandages, and had to lay off 41 doctors.,

- Trash has piled up for weeks in some neighbour-hoods. Margaret Young. chairman of the Envirionment Committee of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association, says a park in her neighbourhood has "rat holes you could lose a small

child down." - The city's Public Housing Agency and Foster Care Programme have been put under federal receivership. One judge said the city's children were in "great danger" under the city's child welfare prog-

"It's just a mess, a total mess," said Vivian Tisdall. 69, who spent most of her life teaching school here. "I'd move in a minute, if I

Washington veered so close to financial collapse this spring that a Democratic president and a Republican Congress stripped power from the city council and the mayor and established a board to take over the finances of the District of Columbia, which had been

Control boards have: been imposed on otherplaces, but this city is supposed to be a symbol of America at its best.

spending money it did not

Washington still attracts the best and the brightest. Erica Gunn grew up in Dayton, Ohio, and moved here last September to join the Republican revolution in Congress. She had earned a master's degree in public policy, and now happily works 50-hour-plus weeks for the Senate Agriculture Committee.

She shares a house on Capitol Hill and loves it, although she is quick to note that she is an expert in martial arts and would not hesitate to use it.

"I like the fact that I can walk to work. I like the fact that I live on a block that is integrated, diverse. ... I like the fact that I can get good bakery bread a few blocks away.

And yes, she admits to a thrill at living amid so much history.

A beatific ambiance permeates all four of Washington's corners. In the city's very poor southeast quadrant, just beside a Roman Catholic church called Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a rolling, grassy hill juts between two thickets of

Straight ahead is the Washington Monument. To the left is the Capitol, the seat of Congress. Up and to the right, like a lone king on a chess board, is the National Cathedral.

By day, you can stand next to the church with the chirps of birds in your ears. By night, it's an area best avoided. The evening is punctuated by gunfire, regular as rain. Drunken, drugged or bored people linger on nearly every corner. Fat rats waddle into

the street. This hilltop is in anacostia, birthed in the proud heritage of freed slaves, home of the abolitionist Frederick Douglas. Now it is isolated and ignored by the rest of the city, practically a pariah community. Problems that no control

board can solve drag at Washington. A sizable black middle class, once an anchor of stability, has been fleeing for the suburbs, leaving behind an overwhelmingly black underclass.

Crime has declined recently, but the drug culture and lawlessness still rule many neighbourhoods. In a recent five-month period, about 1,500 teenagers were arrested for crimes ranging from homicide to car theft, causing the city council to vote to impose a youth cur-

Even the mayor has a criminal record. Marion Barry was recently returned to office after a four-year hiatus, some of which was spent in prison on drug charges.

Mr. Barry was reelected with overhwlming support from blacks and very little from whites.

This is because Washington, the city, is predominantly black. Washington, the political capital, is predominantly white. The two cities share some traits -an allegiance to the Redskins American football team, an inability to work when it snows — but they often coexist without con-

necting.
The District of Columbia was laid out by a black surveyor and many leading figures in African-American history have been associated with

But black Washington is in decline. While other cities grapple with white flight, the strongest demographic trend here over the past two decades has been black flight.

In 1970, 71 per cent of Washington's 757,000 people were black. By 1990, the black population had declined by 140,000 blacks now account for 66 per cent of the city's resi-

(Continued from page 1)

fear going to the Internation-

Hague if it had proof of its

have been killed in two bor-

der clashes in the disputed

lem whenever domestic prob-

this problem to arbitration

and we would like the Egyp-

tian government to respond

"In view of the escalation

claims over Halaib.

Halaib area last week.

Evidence has been accumulating of a breakdown in everyday services. The Rape Crisis Centre

came within 24 hours of

closing. Volunteers finallypassed the hat to keep it In the last year, 559 police officers quit. There have been fewer arrests

Thirty-eight school prin-

ple had police records. Private schools to which

stant factor in the exodus of

of a conspiracy. whites to undermine, and

eventually drive out, Washington's black local government and its majority black population. These fears were rein-

a tax-free zone to spur eco-

nomic development and create jobs.

If Mr. Kemp prevails,

city Councilman John Ray predicted, "In 10 years all the rich folks would be in Washington, D.C., and all the poor folks would be in the suburban areas."

Nowhere does "the plan" feel more real than in Anacostia, with its stunning view of the city and its cheap real estate. Here, the conspiracy endures because of historical precedent: Georgetown.

The same Georgetown homes that blacks once owned and worth millions. Businessman Leo Bernstein, 79, who got rich buying Georgetown real estate, now advises friends to buy property in Anacos-

Race also permeates talk of local government in Washington, where a white Congress once held all the power - and now effective-

ly does again. Until 20 years ago, the city was ruled by federal government commissioners. The district gained limited home rule in 1975. But Congress never gave up full control — it still can veto the city's budget and the acts of its government.

From the start, Washington's infant government was hit with spending responsibilities, including health care and other serenough tax base.
The district operates

under two enormous handicaps: Congress won't allow it to impose an income tax on commuters and 57 per cent of the real estate is owned by the federal government, embassies, universities, churches and the like - and thus taxexempt.

The federal government pays 660 million this year in lieu of taxes, nearly 20 per cent of the city's 3.4 billion budget. But the payment, many people say, is arbitrary, patronising and insufficient.

Still, no one in Washington — not even Marion Barry - argues that the city has spent its money wisely Tales of bureacuratic waste and inefficiency are part of D.C. lore.

For some, becoming the 51st U.S. state is the solu-

But statehood has no prospects. The district's fiscal crisis certainly isn't likely to persuade Congress that the city is ready to manage its own affairs.

If all else fails, it's clear the U.S. government isn't going to give up on Washington, D.C.

"It can't die," said Jack McLean, managing partner of the Greater Washington Initiative, who is paid to improve the image of metropolitan Washington. "It's the centre - not only of the region, but of the country

# PLO, Israel set July 25 for accord

(Continued from page 1)

a year behind the timetable laid down in the declaration of principles.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres had failed in more than eight hours of talks overnight Saturday to hammer out a deal, thereby missing a July 1 deadline they had set last

"The two sides have agreed that the interim agree ment will enable Palestinians and Israelis to live in peace and security," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

Until now, the main disagreement remaining was on the extent of the West Bank pullout: The Palestinians want control of all Arabpopulated areas there, while Israel demanded that troops remain in some towns and rural areas to protect the 110,000 Israelis living in settlements scattered throughout the territory.

On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he was willing to withdraw troops in two stages from six of seven towns in the West Bank, and Mr. Peres said the army would also leave most

West Bank villages. Israel wants to keep control of the last remaining town of Hebron, where 450 Jews live amidst 110,000

terim stage of Palestinian autonomy which is supposed to last until May 1999. The final status of the West Bank and Gaza has not yet been negotiated.

Israel TV reported that in Tuesday's meeting, the Israelis offered to let Palestinian police patrol the rural areas together with Israeli troops. That report could not be confirmed. Mr. Peres said the details

would now be worked out between Palestinian negotiator Ahmad Qouriea and Israeli negotiator Uri Savir. Following is the full text of the Israel-PLO "understanding" read out in English by

Mr. Abed Rabbo: "Arafat and Peres announced today that after months of public and discreet negotiations and meetings between Rabin and Arafat and Peres an understanding has been reached on main aspects of the interim agreement - free and democratic elections for the Palestinian council and redeployment of the Israeli military forces in the West Bank and the trans-

fer of civilian authority. "Both sides agreed that the interim agreement would be fully based on the (1993) declaration of principles (for

autonomy). "Israel, on the eve of the

populated areas on the West Bank, elections will be held for the establishment of the Palestinian council. 'The two sides have agreed that the interim agree-

ment will enable Palestinians

and Israelis to live in peace and security. 'Arafat and Peres instructed their delegations, headed by (PLO Economy Minister Ahmad Qouriea) Abu Alaa and (Israeli foreign ministry director-general)

Uri Savir, to enter into in-

tense negotiations in order to finalise the interim agreement by July 25. "Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres covered among other issues the release of Palestinian prisoners held and detained in Israeli jails. It was agreed that the prisoners' gradual release will be arranged under the auspices of the (Israeli) ministerial commit-

tee formed for this purpose and will be included in the interim agreement. "Both sides reaffirmed their desire to achieve a just lasting and comprehensive peaceful settlement and that the interim agreement is an integral part of the whole

journalists security remained the main problem. reached an agreement on

security concepts, particularly not in rural areas," he said.

"We do not want Palestinian localities to be isolated enclaves, which would make life even more difficult for

He said it was impossible to hold elections unless the Palestinian police was in charge of security, "at least in populated areas of the West

"I cannot (say) there has been a great change in the Isracli attitude, but there is still room for negotiation," he added.

time on Sunday to try to

secure the Igman road,

prompting a reprisal shelling

of U.N. headquarters in

Sarajevo that left four

peacekeepers wounded.

#### Bosnian tension escalates

(Continued from page 1)

patched to Igman to help protect peacekeepers under

They fired the mortar at elections, will redeploy from Serb positions for the first peace process."
Mr. Abed Rabbo later told

'We cannot say we have

"We insist that redeployof the situation in Halaib and ment takes place in all towns the exploitation by the Egypand all areas, including Hebron. I insist on Hebron as a tian government of this probtown and a region because lems erupt... we urge the Egyptian government to take there are rumours that Hebron will be excluded.

> positively," Mr. Atabani "We announce in front of the whole world that there is no solution or a dignified, acceptable and just way out to this problem without

arbitration," he said. "We would like to go to the International Court of Justice because it has experience and well-known rules and traditions. But Egypt has to agree to go, as well."

> of dispute between Sudan and Egypt since the 1950s. Mr. Atabani, a senior member of the National Islamic Front - which is led by Sudan's spiritual mentor Hassan Al Tourabi - said on

The potentially oil-rich

border area has been an issue

since the pay cut took effect in May. cipals took early retirement

or just left. After a school security aide was convicted of sexually molesting two stufound that 53 of the schools's 211 security peo-

the district sends children needing special education said the pupils would not be welcomed back because the city hadn't paid the tuition. Along with crime, a con-

middle-class blacks is talk "The plan" goes like this: The district's financial problems are being used by

forced this year when Jack Kemp, a former secretary of housing and urban developme \_\_\_gested making the District of Columbia

#### cial sources said captured Gamaa claims foiled attack

Sunday Egypt was massing troops in and around Halaib conference Egypt should not prior to launching a military offensive to fully annex the area on the Red Sea border. al Court of Justice in the But he said on Tuesday Sudan did not favour military options to solve the dispute. Three Sudanese policemen

"Military options will not be successful to any party despite the strength of the Egyptian army, which has no one else but us to challenge after they solved their prob-lem with Israel and could inflict huge losses on us," he

Last July, Sudan com-plained to the United Nations Security Council, accusing Cairo of avoiding talks on a peaceful settlement of their

disagreements. Sudanese President Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has also said Sudan is prepared to put the Halaib dispute to the International Court of Jus-

Egypt has rejected such calls, maintaining it did not have to arbitrate over its

Mr. Sharif, the Egyptian information minister, told reporters on Tuesday: "Halaib is Egyptian and will always remain Egyptian and the agreements are clear in this respect and they (Sudan) have to respect these agree-

Meanwhile, Egyptian judi-

vices, without a large

Gamaa militants have confes-

sed to receiving arms from the National Islamic Front The four, seized as security forces found three arms caches in southern Egypt on June 24, told the state security court the front had "financed the purchase of these arms and explosives and their shipment from Sudan to

Egypt." the sources said. In another twist, Egypt cut the number of flights to Cairo by the Sudanese national airlines to two a week from four and stopped direct flights between Port Sudan and the

- and they can't let it die." Egyptian capital. Egypt also tried to defuse a row with Ethiopia by denying it had accused the Addis

Ababa security forces of

acting as accomplices in the

assassination bid. "There were no Egyptian statements condemning or indicating the involvement of the Ethiopian security forces," Mr. Sherif told re-porters. "On the contrary an official Egyptian source said earlier that we were certain that the Ethiopian authorities were concerned to reveal the reality and that we respect the secrecy of investiga-

## tions," he added.

(Continued from page 1) "We have made our choice. It is a clear-cut choice, I believe, beyond any doubt whatsoever," Mr. Ma-

jor said. "It was the clear, absolutely conclusive result that the party was praying for," said Defence Secretary Malcolm

Rifkind. The fact that a third of his colleagues did not vote for him cast a cloud on Mr. Major's already fragile authority. Bill Cash, one of Mr. Major's prominent critics within the party, said it was only a starting point for heal-

ing party rifts. "We've got to strive to find that common ground," Mr.

Major wins party elections Tony Blair, leader of the opposition Labour Party,

> could pull together. "Mr. Major hasn't come out on one side or another of his divided party ... that drift and that lack of direction will simply continue," Mr. Blair

doubted that Conservatives

Mr. Major's supporters shouted with delight and relief when the vote was announced. The party leader is automatically the prime minister and Mr. Major would have had to resign if he

Mr. Redwood said Mr. Major "won fair and square under the rules, and I pay tribute to that victory."

# Jordan recommended for offshore operations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A Londonbased team of analysts and economists is recommending Jordan to international investors as a strongly potential country in the Middie East to set up offshore operations.

The recommendation was contained in the 1995/ 1996 Report of Offshore Financial Centres and Services (OFC) prepared by a team headed by Milton Grundy and published by Campden Publishing Company. The part on Jordan was presented by Michael T. Dabbit and Thuraya H. Hudi, two Amman-based

corporate attorneys. The report is available by subscription only to worldwide readers.

Listing Jordan as an emerging centre for offshore companies, it says the Kingdom, with highly educated human resources, is "geographically and politically positioned to play an important role in offshore business.

'The constant determination of Jordan to promote an economic system which gives primacy to private initiative and emulation based on reasonable competition has allowed it to take the path of sustainable growth, thus remedying structural imbaances and attracting foreign investment," it said in an introduction.

Jordan is a contrast to the typical image of a country which attracts offshore businesses with low taxation needs to low governmental budgets and limited natural resources and industrial base, it said.

"This image is not repre-sentative of Jordan since substantial legislative and regulatory changes have moved the country away from the idea of being a pure tax haven to being a more sophisticated environment," asserts the report.

Conceding that Jordan continues to face economic problems as a result of 'underlying weaknesses" in the economy, the reports argue, however, that "the future seems promising, and Jordan is wellpositioned to become a gateway for the West to the Middle East and may be poised for further economic expansion.

Offshore business facilities in Jordan will serve three key purposes, it said, listing them as:

 Attracting international capital resources and facilitating their transfer to the Jordanian economy:

 Allowing Jordanian banks to benefit from the experience and expertise of major international banks;

- Stimulating the economies of the region by contact with offshore services and contributing to the development of the countries in the region as a whole.

The legal structure in Jordan allows the operation of an offshore company as defined in the Companies Law No. 1 of 1989 and related regulations as "a public shareholding company of a partnership limited by shares or a limited liability company, which is reg-istered in the Kingdom and carries out its operations

The minimum capital for an offshore company offering insurance or banking services should not be less than JD 5 million, for a limited partnership JD 100.00 and a public shareholding company JD

outside the Kingdom.

500,000. "Jordan has the highest standards of respectability, integrity and regulatory control," says the report. The Kingdom applies the following basic mandatory operating conditions for any offshore company:

- The company must not execute any of its work in Jordan; - It must invest not less than five per cent of its capital in the Kingdom in

- It must have an actual permanent office in Jordan; - It must keep accounting books and files for its financial management work in Jordan and for its over-

Jordanian securities;

seas work; - Half of its employees must be of Jordanian

nationality; - The board of directors may meet outside the country, but a copy of the minotes of the meeting should be sent to the comptroller of companies (failure to do so does, however, have no bearing on the legality of

the meeting). - The company should not raise capital from the local market and Jordanians cannot acquire shares in such companies through a public subscription in the

Eight offshore companies have been registered in Amman, two of them in the insurance sector and the rest in trading.

"Jordan has the potential to rank first in the Near/ Middle East region with the adoption of open trade policies, a long-term commitment to modernisation and a stable legal and regulatory environment," said the OFC report.

"Jordanian traders find political stability and peace with Israel to be the major pillars of a promising future for Jordan," it said. "Those using Jordan for transhipments contend that it is now the 'transit country.' After the peace treaty with Israel, Jordan will be strategically placed to link Asia with

# Gulf economy recovering in 1995

ABU DHABI (AFP) -- Guif Arab economies have started to recover and will likely register positive growth rates in 1995 after a decline caused by weak oil prices in the previous year, experts said on Tuesday.

As crude prices are expected to be nearly \$2 higher than in 1994, the oil sector in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will reverse a downward trend while the private sector is also projected to grow.

But sharp cuts in govern-ment spending, mainly in Saudi Arabia, are expected to depress the public sector and offset growth in other

"The improvement in oil

prices this year means a positive growth rate for the energy sector in the GCC and this positively affects the private sector," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at the Saudi National Commercial Bank. "But the government sec-tor will likely decline due to

rationalisation of expenditure in most member states. "However, the economic outlook for 1995 is generally better than in 1994 although

there will be no high growth rates in nominal terms," he told AFP by telephone from quotas.

Jeedah. GCC states - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — produce around 13 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil, providing them with the bulk of their

A drop in crude prices to around \$15.5 a barrel in 1994 from \$16.33 in 1993 depressed their gross domestic pro-duct (GDP) in current prices to around \$198.3 billion from \$205 billion.

A breakdown showed most of them suffered from a downturn in nominal terms. with the Saudi GDP declining to around \$120 billion from \$121.9 billion. Kuwait's GDP dipped to about \$22 billion from \$24.3 billion and Qatar's to nearly \$6 billion from \$7.5 billion.

The UAE was the only exception, with the GDP growing to around \$36 billion from \$35.1 billion as the government has maintained

Oil prices have largely recovered this year due to higher world demand and compliance by most OPEC members with their production

The price of the North Sea Brent crude averaged around \$17.5 in the first half of 1995 compared with \$15.8 in the first half of 1994, an increase of more than 10 per cent, according to oil executives in

While prices could weaken in the third quarter, they will be propped up again by stronger seasonal demand in the last quarter, executives said, adding the level was expected to average around \$17 for 1995.

Mr. Azzam said there were positive economic indicators in Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, including a deal by the official airline Saudia to buy 60 aircraft for more than \$6 billion, a \$2.5 billion project to develop the giant Shabyah oilfield and the approval of around \$1.65 billion for a power project.

He said the Saudi government had also earned around 5.5 billion riyals (\$1.46 billion) from bonds sales this year while a fall in interest

rates due to lower dollar rates enabled regional governments to increase borrowing and cut debt servicing.

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"All these factors show there is more activity in the market and the economic situation is improving. "But to be realistic, we should note that rationalisation of expenditure and other restructuring programme are casting their shadows on the economic situation," Mr. Azzam

GCC states cut spending to around \$68.7 billion in 1995 from \$71.4 billion in 1994 as they had assumed an oil price of around \$15 billion.

Economists said the actual 1995 deficit could be much lower if oil prices maintain their current level and member states did not hike expenditure.

"GCC economies will record positive growth rates in 1995 but at reasonable levels as oil prices have not increased sharply and the U.S. dollar has lost more than 20 per cent of its value against major world currencies." said Mohammad Al Asumi, chief economist at the Emirates Industrial Bank.

# Palestinian firm in \$400m housing projects

AMMAN (R) — A company backed by Palestinian and Arab investors said on Tuesday it would start two construction projects worth \$400 million in self-ruled Gaza by

early 1996.
"We hope to submit the tenders to contractors at the end of the year and to start construction early next year after detailed designs are completed," said Nabil Sarraf, chairman of the Palestine Real Estate Investment Com-

slipped for the first time in a

ear, and a drop in construc

But analysts said Monday's

tion spending was the

gloomy pre-holiday reports

Federal Reserve meeting on

interest rates - suggest ane-

mic growth and not a reces-

sion. They also noted that

consumer spending was sur-

prisingly strong in May,

- just two days before a key

steepest in four years.

Americans' income in May simistic picture.

The \$22 million capital company, 49 per cent owned by the Liberian-registered Palestine Development and Investment Company (PADICO), was set up in 1994 with expatriate and local

Palestinian and Arab capital. The two housing complexes, the biggest yet in Gaza, will be built on land provided by the Palestinian authority, running the Gaza Strip and Jericho since May

brightening the generally pes-

come fell 0.2 per cent in May,

the first decline since a 0.6

per cent drop in January

1994. Income rose a mere 0.1

slowed dramatically in 1995

from last year's booming

pace, rose a strong 0.7 per

cent after a tepid 0.1 per cent

gain in April. Consumer

But spending, which has

per cent in April.

The U.S. Commerce De-

1994 under the terms of a 1993 peace accord between Israel and the PLO.

Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasser Arafat,

mic activity.

who was briefed on the project this weekend, gave his approval to allocate the two A final accord with the

Personal incomes drop; spending rises in U.S.

thirds of the nation's econo-

ported that construction

spending fell 1.5 per cent in

May, its second straight de-

cline and the biggest drop

since May 1991. Construction.

spending was \$514.7 billion at

a seasonally adjusted annual

rate, the lowest since August,

when it was \$509.9 billion.

homes dropped 2.5 per cent

Spending on single-family

The government also re-

Construction will be to be completed this week, phased over the next few Mr. Sarraf added. years, Mr. Sarraf told Reu-The first project is a

spending accounts for two- to \$136.9 billion on top of a

\$136 billion.

would be avoided.

medium-high income 2,400 unit complex in the Mashtal coastal area in northern Gaza on a 300,000 square metre site. It will cost some \$300 million and include a 360 room hotel, multipurpose hall

Analysts said most signs

"The basic picture is that

point to a sluggish economy

but predicted a recession

the economy has stalled out.

It's declining modestly or near zero," said economist

Laurence Meyer, who runs a

St. Louis forecasting service.

Palestinian authority on pro-

fit sharing and joint develop-

ment of the plan is expected

#### IFAD, ISESCO sign agreement

ROME - The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisa-tion (ISESCO) Monday signed a cooperation agreement to help promote agricultural and rural development objectives in Islamic countries members of both organisations. The agreement was signed at the fund's headquarters in Rome by Fawzi Al Sultan, president of IFAD and Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Othman Altwaijri, directorgeneral of ISESCO.

ISESCO was established in Morocco in 1982, as a result of the third summit meeting of the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) held in Taef and Mecca, Saudi Arabia, in 1981. The organisation endeavours to enhance cooperation among its 40 member states in the fields of education, applied science and advanced technology as well as cultural exchange with a view to achieving peace, security

"The question we're trying

Latta of Dri-McGraw Hill, a

forecasting firm in Lexing-

ton, Mass. There is a good

chance for a modest recovery

in the latter part of the year,

in a session abbreviated by

the July 4 holiday. The Dow

Jones industrial average

closed up 29.05 points to

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THE BETTER HALF

Stocks rose in later trading

2.3 per cent dip in April. The to answer is whether it will

May total is the lowest since turn into a recession or stop

September 1993, when it was short of zero," said Cynthia

she said.

and progress.
The IFAD-ISESCO cooperation agreement lays the basis for mutual support and cooperation in programmes and activities related to agricultural and rural development which are of common interest to both organisations. The agreement underlines that closer cooperation will further the achievement of the objectives of both organisations particularly in promoting development objective the two organisations agreed on reciprocal representation, exchange of information, further discussions of joint activities and coordination in the fields of common interest.

During the signing ceremony President Sultan highlighted the excellent relations that have existed between IFAD and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) secretariat with whom a cooperation agreement was signed in 1983.

The Federal Reserve.

which boosted interest rates

seven times during a one-year

believed by many to be on

the verge of changing course

The Central Bank's policy-

making federal open market

committee meets Wednesday

and Thursday to determine

whether the slowdown is se-

vere enough to warrant trim-

By Glasbergen

and cutting rates.

ming rates now.

stretch concluded Feb. 1, is

#### Key Arab shipping firm reports loss for third year

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) The biggest joint Arab shipping venture suffered losses in 1994 for the third year running due to a fall in freight caused by growing competition, the company announced here Monday.

But a series of readjustments in shipping rates slashed the 1994 loss of the United Arab Shipping Company (UASC) to nearly a quarter of the 1993 level, the port. company said.

The company said in a. statement to AFP that it lost \$17,27 million in 1994, compared with \$73.12 million in 1993. It was the third year that UASC went into the red

million in 1992. This contrasted with 1991, when it made a record earnings of nearly \$60 million as it monopolised services in the region after other shipping firms were scared off by the Gulf war

"The decline in operating income in 1994 was due to a fall in freight rates on regular lines and lower cargo the United States," said the re-

capital of around \$1.7 billion, was set up in 1976 by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE. Iraq's 19 per cent shareholding was frozen after after a loss of around \$33 its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

#### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have fine ideas for expansion today and should impart them to partners, but be sure to use

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can handle regular affairs more easily this morning, but later today don't argue over business deals. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You get fine support from an associate this morning, for some good project, then quietly work out

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can make fine progress in tasks which interests you in the morning, but later today

don't talk over your techniques. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Early today plan for the evening's entertainment, but tonight do not demand your own way with

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Early today do something at home which can bring greater devotion to you and ensure security there for some time to come.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You find it easier to express yourself well where most necessary this morning, then later today be tactful and diplomatic with everyone.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get a new conception about finances and then you know how to make more and save more SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) See to it that you

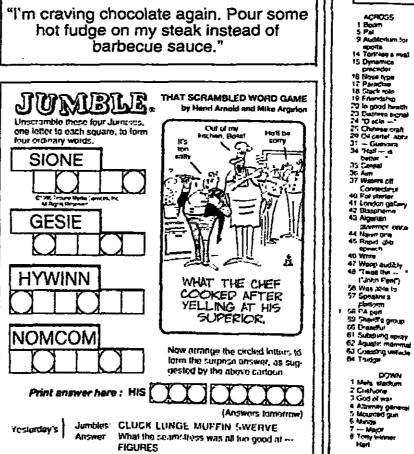
get enough for your needs but don't impose on benefactors too much. Be with kin or close friends. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make arrangements

with fine friends who can help you to gain what you desire, but later today carry through with important activities. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into that group affair this morning, but later today work out the details all by yourself. A

good friend can help you make progress. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can get into career activities most efficiently this morning, but later today don't do anything which could spoil your reputation.

Birthstone of July: Ruby - Tiger's Eye

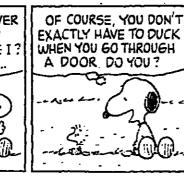
# THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins "I'm craving chocolate again. Pour some hot fudge on my steak instead of barbecue sauce." THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argelor

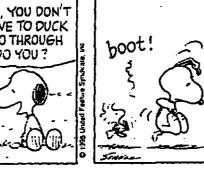


# Peanuts



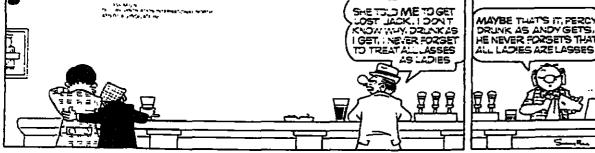






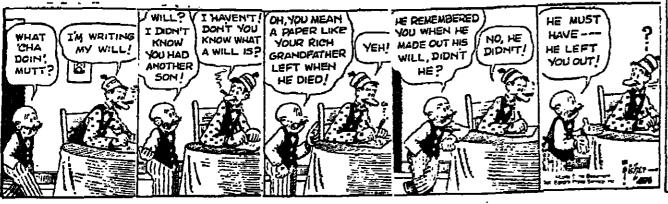


#### **Andy Capp**





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## Bouncing cheques on the rise

The number of

bouncing cheques

during the first four months of 1995 rose by 5.1 per cent over the same period in 1994. The number of bouncing cheques in the period totalled 147,500, with a total value of about JD 135.4 million compared to 140,400 cheques with a total value of JD 120.3 million in the same period of 1994. This reflected a 12.52 increase in the value of bouncing cheques in 1995. The highest number of bouncing cheques was recorded in January which witnessed 43,000 cases of bouncing cheques with a value was JD 37.2 million. An official source attributed the rise in the number of bouncing cheques to the slowdown in the trade movement, which has already been suffering a deep recession for the past two years. The source said most merchants issue cheques based on speculations of future flow of cash. Bouncing cheques in 1994 totalled 435,000 worth JD 372.1 million, reflecting an increase of 30 per cent over the year before (A) Ra'i).

\*\* THE JORDAN Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company received 26,600 tonnes of iomatoes from Jordan Valley farmers since the beginning of the tomato season in May, company Director General Khaldoun Al Nasser said. Mr. Nasser said the company paid the farmers JD 970,000 for the amount (Al Ra'i).

\*\* Jordan and the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed three agreements under which the Kingdom will receive loans worth 38 million European currency units (ECUs) (\$45 million) to finance several development projects. Under the agreements, 20 million ECUs will be presented to the Jordan Electricity Company to enhance the electricity generation power in the Greater Amman area, 13 million ECUs to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to be used in carrying out water and sewerage network projects in Amman, Zarqa. Irbid, Souf, Mahes and Fuheis and five million ECUs to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to repair water networks in Mafraq and Ajloun (Al Ra'i).

\*\* The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company will import in the next few days about 100,000 new gas cylinders. Company sources said that this amount, in addition to the output from the local factory producing cylinders will be enough to meet the entire local market needs (Al Ra'i).

🗫\*\* The 35 Jordanian companies which took part in the International Moscow Fair recently succeeded in concluding JD 2 million deals with Russian companies. (Al Dustour)

## Saudi five-year plan to cut state dominance

DUBAI (R) - Saudi Arabia's government has approved an ambitious plan for the next five years to reduce dependence on oil and slash subsidies in an economy that has so far been

largely state-driven.
The cabinet on Monday night approved the sixth economic plan for Muslim calendar years 1415 to 1420 (1995-2000), which also aims to enhance the role of the private sector, the Saudi Press-Agency (SPA) said.

A draft of the plan obtained by Reuters earlier showed its priorities reflect the kingdom's pledge to balance revenues and expenditure and largely eliminate subsidies for the years 1995 to 2000.

It said priorities included rationalising "government expenditure and (making) the national economy more dependent on private sector activities."

It said Saudi Arabia intended to "reduce dependence on the production and export of crude oil as the main source of national in-

SPA quoted Planning Minister Abdul-Waltab Bin Abdul-Salam Attar as saying the plan "will work for increasing the contribution of the private sector in making

jobs available and diversify the base of the economy to lessen dependence on oil revenue.

The draft also says the government should reduce production costs of public services and utilities and rationalise the system of direct and indirect subsidies provided by the state.

Saudi Arabia, which has been running budget deficits since 1982, exports about seven million of its eight million barrel per day oil production. It has already cut subsidies to farmers and raised prices on utilities from power to water.

The world's largest oil ex-

porter and producer recorded a \$10.7 billion deficit in 1994 mainly due to weak oil prices despite cutting the budget by 20 per cent.

The current \$40 billion budget carries a \$4 billion deficit which official sources expect to be wiped out by the end of the year if oil prices remain higher than forecast

in the budget.
The 1995 budget projected oil income at about \$33 billion out of total 1995 revenues forecast at \$36 billion. The kingdom has earned about \$2.3 billion above forecast oil revenue in the first five months of 1995, economic sources told Reuters.

#### Israeli high-tech export zone snagged by red tape TEL AVIV (R) — Three

years ago, 20 of the top Jewish businessmen in the United States made Israel an offer few countries could re-They would fund construc-

tion of a lowtax, high-tech export zone on 250 hectares in Israel's southern Negev Desert. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave the goahead for the project, expected to create 20,000 new

But the Israeli Free Processing Zone, aimed at funneling foreign investment into the Jewish state, has run into what entrepreneurs had thought was a relic of its past thick government red

A tender for the zone has yet to be issued and 20 per cent of the companies which had agreed to operate under the original investor group have already backed out, project organisers say.

The politicians are talking about eliminating the bureaucracy, but nothing changes on the ground," said David Yerushalmi, an American-Israeli who heads the original investor group. Mr. Yerushalmi cited a 31

per cent drop to \$519 million

in net foreign investment in Israel last year, compared with \$751 million in 1993, as proof that Israel is still inhospitable to foreign companies. His Israel Export Develop-

ment Company (IEDC) has already invested \$7 million in marketing the zone. "The fact of the matter is

that the companies we had lined up are finding other countries and other zones to move. The world won't wait for Israel," he said. Sprint International. Elec-

tronic Data Systems, Lotus Development Corporation, Petro Systems Corporation, Deloitte and Touche Accounting and the German Firm Factor are among companies which are interested in operating in the zone, Mr. Yerushalmi said.

He would not name the firms which have pulled out. IEDC investors who intend to fund the zone's construction include U.S. real estate magnates Larry Silverstein and Robert Tishman, CBS's (Larry Tisch, home depot founder Bernie Marcus, investor Michael Steinhardt and Sy Syms of Syms Clo-

thing.
Mr. Yerushalmi said pub-

lication of the tender had been delayed by mid-level bureaucrats from government agencies who offered no explanation for their objections to the zone. He said their frequent complaints have taken weeks to

resolve. The zone, to be run by an autonomous council, will draw on Israel's highlyeducated labour pool. It is planned as a haven from the motoriously high taxes and dense bureaucracy that have been Israel's chief barriers to

attracting foreign firms. Companies operating in the zone are to be subject to only a 15 per cent flat tax on profits taken out of Israel. Part of the delay has stem-

med from a lawsuit filed last March by residents of Omer. a town near the zone site. They say the area will harm the environment and contest planning procedures. The lawsuit is expected by Au-

A spokesman for the finance ministry, which is overseeing the zone's creation, said the bureaucratic difficulties were simply the growing pains of a new, more open Israeli economy

"It takes a bit more time

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than we thought," explained Boaz Roday, an adviser to finance Minister Abraham Shohat, "We don't have the zone yet, that's why we have the bureaucracy."

Mr. Roday said a tender for the zone would be issued as soon as the lawsuit was settled.

Anxious investors, counting lost revenues from the delays, predict that once the zone finally gets going, it will generate \$1 billion in revenues in its first eight years.

The group which wins development rights will finance construction of the area's infrastructure and assume responsibility for attracting companies to operate in its 1.4 million square metres of work space.

At least three companies, including Mr. Yerushalmi's and another led by Israelis, are preparing to bid for de-velopment rights, a project official said.

Mr. Yerushalmi said that under his group's plan, most goods produced in the zone would be sold in European and U.S. markets. Potential products include research and development, teleservicing and telemarketing and digital processing.

PREV. CLOSING PRICE COMPANY'S NAME TRADED PRICE 219.500 218.500 96170 ARAB BANK PIC 4.550 JORDAN NATIONAL BANK BANK OF JORDAN MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK. 12139 5632 3.270 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK THE HOUSING BANK JORDAN KUWAIT BANK JORDAN GULF BANK 470 11000 2.630 1.310 4.000 ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK BUSINESS BANK JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK 3.780 3.950 4.290 3.720 BEIT SLMAL SAVINGEINVESTMENT FOR HOUSING AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK. 23250 1.140 1.140 11700 BANKS SECTOR 262196 7036B INDEX NUMBER: 181.11 CHANGE : -0.38 2041 350 JORDAN INSURANCE 6647 915 JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE YARMOUK INSURANCE E REINSURANCE ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2.600 2.630 3.100 3.260 INDEX NUMBER: 135.51 12038 3799 INSURANCE SECTOR 33666 878 38595 19416 JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER 5.850 2.820 arab international hotels JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES 2.800 2.400 1.020 1.200 .670 2.300 NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES
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JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY

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Swine Franc	2.87	2,87	3.00	3.12
French Franc	6.85	6.70	6.50	6.47
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### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3714/24

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# Olajuwon is in Amman

By Aleen Barinayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - NBA superstar Hakeem "the dream" Olajuwon is now in Amman, and basketball fans cannot wait to see the world's best player display some of his skills in the Jordanian capital.

At a press conference Tuesday, Olajuwon said he was on his way to Saudi Atabia to perform the Umra pilgrimage and said Amman would be yearly stopover for him as he intended to make it a yearly

trip.
"I am very happy to be in Jordan, it is a beautiful country. The people are wonderful and I plan to come here next year too. I'm having a great vaca-

Asked about how he became the world's top play-er, Olajuwon said: "I have accomplished a lot in the U.S. I believe Islam, as a way of life, enabled me to have a better understanding of everything. It took my game to another level. I'm happy with my life."

Olajuwon who led the Houston Rockets to their second straight NBA title this year with 4-0 win over Orlando Magic said he hoped to assist Jordanian basketball in his future trips. But he did not confirm if he would be playing in Amman this time although informed sources told the Jordan Times the superstar might appear in a charity exhibition on



Hakeem Olajuwon #34 of the Houston Rock ets in NBA action earlier this year (AFP photo)

Thursday or Friday. Born in Lagos, Nigeria Olajuwon left for the U.S. in 1980 and excelled in college basketball with team-

mate Clyde Drexler. Olajuwon transformed the Houston Rockets 1982-83 worst ever team to an NBA finalist in just his second season after being drafted in 1984 by the Houston Rockets and was runner-up to Michael Jor-

dan for rookie of the year. He led the NBA in re-bounds and blocked shots in the 1989-90 season and played his seventh consecutive NBA all-star game in 1991. In 1992 he was

runner-up to Charles Barkley of the Phoenix Suns for the title of Most Valuable Player (MVP). He was named NBA MVP in 1994 and also in the recently

concluded 1995 season.

## Women's Basketball

# Al Jala' win 1st match

By Aleen Bannayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordan's women's basketball team Monday lost their first match 69-51 to Syrian champions Al Jala' who are on a week-long visit to the Kingdom.

The Kingdom's team were playing their first official match after being regrouped earlier this year. However they clearly demonstrated the ill-effects of the women's national team's 12-year absence from the basketball scene. Al Jala's coherent lineup took the first half 38-22, but the Jordanian team made a good comeback in the second half which they lost 31-29, therefore losing the match on the score difference Al Jala' built in the first half.

While Al Jala' depended on Kareen Abdulnour and Elo Mouradian, Jordan's Jumana Salti carried the burden of scoring and rebounding capping a perfect match with 28 points. Syria's Karla Maghamez scored 20 for her team followed by Abdulnour with 12 and Mouradian with

Al Jala' led 10-7 at the beginning but took a good lead in three minutes relying on a press defence to outscore the Jordanian team 14-0 and take a 24-7 lead.

Playing together for the first time, Jordan's women seemed panicky causing many turnovers to keep Al Jala's lead 36-18.

Jordan's Salti cut the Syrian team's lead in the second half to 42-32, but Al Jala' again scored to lead 51-32. Salti then scored 11 consecutive points to reduce Al Jala's lead, but Jordan missed the efforts of Suhair Makusi who did not play most of the second half with a slight in-

Al Jala' currently lead the standings in the Syrian League and will play a threeround playoff against titleholders Al Horrich and Al Ourouba clubs starting July

In a post match statement Al Jala's coach Nidal Farra told the Jordan Times he was happy with his team's performance: "We are just out



Jordan's Jumana Salti goes for a layup

of our league's matches and the team is very coherent. and ready unlike yours." The four matches with Al

Jala' are intended to put the finishing touches on the Kingdom's team's preparations for the upcoming Asian Basketball Championship which will be held in Shizuoka, Japan July 23-30.

Citing a cash-strapped budget, the JBF cancelled another four matches against a Ukrainian team.

Al Jala, have a 3-0 record over Jordanian teams. They beat Jordan's 1994 champions Al Jazireh twice in Aleppo early last year and again in July '94 when they finished second behind Lebanon's Homentmen in Al Jazireh's five-team regional championship.

Al Jala's lineup includes five players on the Syrian national team including Al Yarmouk club's powerful centre Elo Mouradian. Other national team players include Karin and Miriam Abdulnour, Karla Maghamez, Dina Abdul Samad and Joe! Abboushi. Other players are Reem Shakkour, Nour Tarabishi, Tania Ribat, Aleen Khokaz, Regina Maqdesi and Waled Karroum.

The Kingdom's team is coached by Fadi Sabbah and includes: Rana Husseini, Tala Mauje, Jumana Salti, Hala Muheisen, Shuhair Makusi, Andeira Qassesieh, Tetiana Qardan, Hind Ghouri, Sirsa Naghaway, Dima Shadeed, Zein Sha'sha, Rania Al Dajani. Jihan Abdulnour also joined the team on Monday after taking leave from her work in

Schedule of matches

Thursday 6/7 Jala vs. Jordan Orthodoxi court 7:30 Friday 7/7 Jala vs. Jordan Orthodoxi court 7:30 p.m.

want to smile or show his

# Australian authorities deny Olympic pollution claims

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australian authorities Tuesday reclaims that they faced toxic clean up problems at the site of the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

Sydney plans to host the 'Green Games" at Hombush Bay, 14 kilometres west of the city centre, by cleaning up a former industrial area that once housed a naval armaments depot, abattoir and brickworks quarry. But Kate Short, a member

of the committee which drew up environmental guidelines for the Games, said the size of the problem could cause a blowout in costs for the state government of New South

Short told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation television that the scale of

toxicity in Homebush Bay, around two kilometres from the Games site, and around the proposed Olympic village had been covered up. Michael Knight, Olympics

minister in the state government, summoned international news agencies to a special briefing to deny the television report's claims. He agreed that sediment in

the bay itself was contaminated with dioxins from a former Union Carbide plant, but noted the bay was "a considerable distance" from Olympic venues and the government had acknowledged the problem in 1988. The state government had

embarked on a one million Australian dollar (\$710,000) study to investigate remedying the situation, he said, although there were "no

great solutions" known of in the world.
"In a broad environmental

perspective it would be preferable for it (the bay) to be fixed. (but) it is not central Olympics, it poses no threat to the athletes or to spectators," Knight said.

He said the dioxins, highly toxic chemicals, posed a risk only to fish and those who are Knight said the clean-up of

Olympic Park where athletes would compete was almost finished and had been achieved under budget at a cost of \$46.5 million.

Contaminated land on the 260-hectare (642-acre) site of the Olympic village, which would be sold as homes after the Games, would be cleaned up with a budget of \$58 million, he added.

Asked whether reports of contamination might affect the market price of the Olympic village homes and put a hole in the state's Games budget, Knight replied: "No.

not at all, not at all. "In fact, private industry who have been dealing with it are very relaxed, we have been quite upfront with them about the whole situation and, in the end, this will literally be better than new." Wilson Park, a fenced off

that was polluted with gasworks waste buried underground, was not part of the site and would also be cleaned up before 2000, he

area near the Olympic site

Short told the television programme, screened Thursday, that people were not fully be level of contamina-

tion in what had been billed as a Green Olympics.

"I still think that there is a commitment from the Olympic people for the Green Games, but I don't think there's enough of an understanding about the extent of toxic chemical pollution and the cost of remediation," she

"That has all been completely swept under the car-

But Knight said the state government had been open. "There was no deception in terms of bid documents, no deception in terms of the IOC (International Olympic Committee), in fact one of the cornerstones of our bid was that we were turning an environmental wasteland into a magnificent sporting and recreational facility," he said.

# Sanchez Vicario reaches semifinals for first time

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario reached her first Wimbledon semifinal Tuesday with a 6-4. 7-6 (7-4) victory over Brenda Shultz-McCarthy.

The second-seeded Spaniard was down a break in both sets against the 15thseeded Dutchwoman but railied to win each time.

The tiebreaker went with serve until Shultz-McCarthy mishit a volley to give San-chez Vicario a 6-4 lead. The match ended on the next

point with another error by Shultz-McCarthy.

The victory marked a breakthrough for Sanchez Vicario, who had failed to progress past the quarterfinals in eight previous Wimbledon appearances. She reached the quarters three times, in 1989, 1991 and

Sanchez Vicario will face the winner of the quarterfinal match between defending champion Conchita Martinez and Gabriela Sabatini.

In later matches, topseeded and five-time champion Steffi Graf was set to face No. 13 Mary Joe Fernandez, with No. 4 Jana Novotna playing No. 6 Kimiko Date - the first Japanese woman ever to reach the Wintbledon quarterfinals.

The men's quarterfinals are set for Wednesday.

Two-time defending champion Pete Sampras will face Shuzo Matsuoka, the first Japanese man to progress this far at a Grand Slam event since Jiro Sato reached the Wimbledon semifinals in

The other matches are: Top-seeded Andre Agassi against Jacco Eltingh, No. 3 Boris Becker vs. Cedric Pioline. and No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic against No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Meanwhile, American doubles star Murphy Jensen telephoned relatives Tuesday to say he was safe and well, a day after he failed to show up for a mixed doubles match and disappeared without ex-

planation. His mother, Patricia, and brother, Luke, said he had telephoned his sister in Atlanta to say he was in London and was fine. They said they still did now know his exact whereabouts or the circumstances of his dis-

арреагапсе. We're not sure why he did it," Luke Jensen said. "I'm very relieved. It wasn't any

kind of kidnapping or any kind of physical accident." On Monday, Sampras posted a 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 victory over Greg Rusedski, who flashed his toothy grin throughout the match.

While Rusedski tried his best to engage the crowd. Sampras never wavered from his serious demeanor as he went about winning his 18th consecutive match at Wimhledon to reach the quarterfin-

"I was trying to wipe the smile off his face." Sampras

To which Rusedski replied: "I'm sorry to say he's never going to wipe that smile off my face, no matter what." "I'm going to have fun out there," he said. "It doesn't matter. If Pete's not going to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

emotions, that's fine by me." The Canadian-born Rusedski, who switched his allegiance to Britain in May, instantly became the No. 1 player and crowd favourite in a country that hasn't had a Wimbledon men's champion since 1936.

wonderful and given so much to me these past few weeks, he said. "Every match had something special for me. It was just so great.

"Even to play Sampras today, to lose in three sets, was a dream match for me. I now know how it feels to play probably the best grasscounter in our generation on Centre Court. Ît's just been a wonderful experience, every-

Rusedski said Sampras --who broke the Canadian-Britain four times while never losing his own serve wanted to prove something today."

Sampras wouldn't say it. but he all but admitted that he was eager to put Rusedski in his place.

He tugged his cap over his face, smiled wryly and declined to comment when asked whether players thought Rusedski "was getting a bit big for his britches." Sampras found plenty to

fault in Rusedski's game. "I think there are some errors in his game that he might have to improve," he said. "He's obviously got a big serve, but if you get it back, he's pretty average. He doesn't really return that well. He's got some time to improve, but he has a couple of holes in his game.

Wimbledon-notebook

Agassi's see-through shorts: Andre Agassi, who has been quizzed on seemingly every detail about his relationship with Brooke Shields, found himself discussing a new topic Monday: His shorts.

"I know this is a personal question," a female journal-ist asked after top-seeded American's 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Alexander Mronz, 'but are you aware that your shorts are slightly transparent?

"Am I aware of that?" "Yeah?" she replied. "No," Agassi said, "but

apparently you are. It took a while for the laughter to die down, but another journalist - this time a man — decided to

"Would you worry if they were?" he asked. "Apparently they are," Agassi said. "And I don't seem too concerned."

More Andre: Never one to miss a promotional opportunity, Andre Agassi performed his own bit of fashion designing before his match Mon-

Before warming up with coach Brad Gilbert, Agassi went over to Gilbert's son, Zachary, and meticulously fitted one of his new, Nikeswoop "do-rags" one the 6-year-old hoy's head.

Zachary wore the white bandana throughout Agassi's victory as he watched the match from the centre court guest box, cradled in his lather's lap.

Those who can't get enough of Agassi trivia might be interested to know that his girlfriend, Brooke Shields, and Gilbert's wife, Kim, relaxed after the match with a snack of tea and scones in the players' cafeteria.

Easy decisions: Having captured the hearts of British fans with three victories before a valiant defeat to Pete Sampras, Montreal-born Greg Rusedski was named to his adopted country's victorystarved Davis Cup team for next week's match against

The July 1416 relegation

match will be the Davis Cup debut for Rusedski, labeled a mercenary by some in the tennis community after being granted permission to play for Britain two months ago by the international tennis federation. "After what he's done this

forget where he comes from, put 'GB' after his name and feel lucky we've got a top 60 player, " British David Lloyd said. British captain

Rusedski's change of alle-

giance upset many British players, notably Chris Wilkinson, who was left off the team after saying he would not play with Rusedski. Britain has lost six con-

secutive Davis Cup matches, and defeat to Monaco would sink the country to Euro-African Zone Group Three - the lowest possible level in the competition.

Joining Rusedski on the team are 122nd-ranked Mark Petchey, 174th-ranked Tim Henman and unranked doubles specialist Neil Broad.

Norman's conquest ends: Dick Norman's streak of victories over Wimbledon champions came to an end when he ran into three-time titlist Boris Becker. The 6-foot-8 (2.04 metre)

Belgian had ousted 1987 champion Pat Cash, Stefan Edberg, the 1988 and '90 titlist, and 1994 doubles champion Todd Woodbridge on the way to last 16. But he couldn't handle Becker's booming serve as

the third seeded German, who won the title in 1985, '86 and '89, sent down 17 aces on the way to a 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, 6-4 victory.

Rising suns: For the first time in Wimbledon history, there are Japanese players in contention in both the men's and women's quarterfinals at Wimbledon. It could be a sign of things to come.

"There are many more talented guys in Asia," said

Shuzo Maznoka after his 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Amer-

ican Michael Joyce. Mazuoka, the first Japanese man since Jiro Sato in 1933 to advance to the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam event, will likely get his wish for a match on one of the opponent is two-time defend-

ing champion Pete Sampras. Meanwhile, sixth-seeded Kimiko Date became the first Japanese woman ever to advance to the Wimbledon quarterfinals when she beat Mariaan De Swardt of South Africa 6-1, 2-6, 6-2.

Hollywood has twice come to Wimbledon - even if mercurial Romanian Ilie Nastase refused to lose on

In 1967, Rod Taylor and Christopher Plummer took to Wimbledon for action in the Royal Box for "nobody runs forever.

In 1978, it was the turn of "the players" starring Dino Martin, son of crooner Dean Martin, and Ali McGraw. Among the real players participating in the picture,

pride was too great to admit defeat. He settled for "retired hurt" when knocked out of the fictional tournament. ☆ Martin's master: Tennis coaches are not supposed to heat their pupils so it was a bit surprising when Todd Martin, Wimbledon semi-

finalist last year, admitted

Nastase was true to form. His

that coach Robert Van't Hof soundly thrashed him every But the bearded American was not talking about tennis, but about his latest craze,

"I play with Dean Goldfine Patrick Galbraith's coach, against Robert and Patrick, and they beat us every time," says Martin. But Robert can't play

cards very long against me. He says he sees too much of me as it is.



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The france (K) — Free strile strile sported a big strile sect the sect sect the sect sect of Monday. is rising on manning. display of rid hilliant ouspray of fite and stage from take the Jacky Durand an

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trank. were special and to get it the form rider of the eries of victories stating within his poand two seconds in a third in the first inte the second to sair thing a theoretical c ie be last sprint carne and Dutchman later away out the sec

see still up for grabs an Wymore !

200L AP -inners became the pensive player a accer history Tuesaz y completed his judice \$12.8 million immester United

Nonzasis Andy Cala ligades-half million radion illentation and the state of the sta ale and of the day and dought one to initial on the groun. Simple Service Service 💐 ໃນ-ໝີໄແດກ-ອຸດຍຸກຕິ ald." Collymore

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incre responded 135 in both ens in Votingham dramed a place on dinational team. say, second destricted theted The mar. and to be re-Hen Clark returns

Manager Roy per season com-

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# Cipollini wins 2nd stage | Morceli breaks 2,000 metres world record as Jalabert takes charge

VITRE, France (R) — French rider Laurent
Jalabert sported a big smile and the leader's yellow jersey after the second stage of the Tour de France on Monday, one year to the day after a terrible accident left him with the labert and his Spanish once team also featured strength in a late break by a second of the labert and his spanish once team also featured strength in a late break by a second of

A brilliant display of riding in the 235-kilometre Brittany stage from Perros-Guirec helped Jalabert take the race lead from compatriot Jacky Durand and obliterate the memory of his mishap in last year's tour.

On July 3 last year Jalabert, who had started the tour with great hopes of success, crashed with Belgian Wilfied Nelissen in a sprint finish in Armentifres and was taken to hospital with blood pouring from head

"This is a great present for an anniversary," the delighted Frenchman said at the end of a stage won in a sprint finish by Italian speed ace Mario Cipollini.
"The 3rd of July is a date I will remember

all my life. I won't be able to forget it for two very different reasons — and I prefer this one to be quite frank.

"In the career of a rider, the yellow jersey is something very special and you have to do everything you can to get it. Jalabert, the form rider of the season with a

compelling series of victories including Paris-Nice, Milan-San Remo, the Criterium International and the Tour of Catalonia, certainly did everything within his power. Seven seconds behind Durand at the start, he filched two seconds in a time bonus by

placing third in the first intermediate sprint and won the second to gain a further six once team could well help him to increase his seconds, taking a theoretical one-second lead over the leader. When the last sprint came, Belgian Eric

had broken away but two seconds for third much more at ease in the climbs than before place were still up for grabs and Durang went
for it, knowing he could grab back the yellow jersey:
"My form has always improved during the
"My form has always improved during the

Collymore

breaks

**British** 

record

last season.

transfer

LIVERPOOL (AP) -

Stan Collymore became the

most expensive player in

British soccer history Tues-

day when he completed his

£8.5 million (\$12.8 million)

paid by Manchester United

for Newcastle's Andy Cole

is eight-and-a-half million

but, at the end of the day.

play football on the pitch,

not to run around saying

'I'm an 8.5-million-pound

footballer," Collymore told a press conference at

"I'm sure tabloid jour-nalists will have a field day

if I have a bad game, but I'm big enough and old enough to really go out and enjoy my football."

Collymore's rise has

been truly meteoric since

the late 1980s, when he

played part-time for Staf-

ford and supplemented his

income by working in a

Collymore joined the

full-time ranks in Decem-

ber 1990 when Crystal

Palace invested £100,000

(\$160,000) in him, but his

playing time was limited at

Selhurst Park and he

moved to lower-division

club Southend during the

Collymore scored 15

goals in 30 games at South-

end, enough for Forest

manager Frank Clark to

sign him for \$2.2 million (\$3.52 million) during the

Collymore responded with 50 goals — 25 in both his seasons in Nottingham

- and earned a place on the England national team. "Tuesday's record deal has one sticking point: Col-

lymore is demanding a £425,000 (\$680,000) slice of

the transfer fee, something

that clark vetoed. The mat-

ter is expected to be re-

solved when Clark returns

Liverpool manager Roy

Evans sees Collymore as

the player to spark the

team's UEFA Cup cam-

supermarket.

1992-93 season.

1993 offseason.

from vacation.

paign next season.

Anfield Stadium.

"Eight-and-a-half million

But Jalabert is in a state of grace these days course of the season and for me in this tour it's

Jalabert and his Spanish once team also featured strongly in a late break by a group of riders who finished 19 seconds ahead of the main peloton in which Durand was stranded. Cipollini, the Italian playboy with long flowing blond locks and a pronounced preference for relaxing on the beach rather than training on a bike, was the fastest of the finishing bunch as he pulled off his 15th sprint win of the season — but curiously only his

#### **Tour de France**

second ever on the tour.

He beat off compatriot Giovanni Lombardi and the Uzbek dynamo Djamolidine Abdoujaparov to win in five hours 26 minutes 35

Cipollini, unable to go for victory in a mass sprint finish to Sunday's first stage because he was suffering from a viral infection, joked after Monday's triumph: "If I can win when I've got a fever, what will I be like when I'm feeling better."

Race favourites Miguel Indurain and Tony Rominger played their cards right and joined the late breakaway. Rominger is 11th overall. 29 seconds behind Jalabert, with Indurain 15th a further five seconds back.

But both may have some reason to worry about the on-form Jalabert, whose strong lead in the team trial third stage over 67 kilometres from Mayenne to Alencon.

Jalabert, once thought of as a sprint special-Vanderaerden and Dutchman Frans Maassen ist, has widened his repertoire this season, is

and he chased his compatriot down, swept just going to get better," he said.

## **Tennis great Pancho** Gonzales dies at 67

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Pancho Gonzales, one of the greatest and most colourful players in tennis history, died of cancer at age 67 in Las Vegas, Nev., his brother said

Ralph Gonzales told the Associated Press that his older brother died Monday night at Sunrise Hospital after stomach cancer had spread throughout his body.
"We had a terrific report

from doctors three weeks ago," he said. "Everything seemed to be going so well. But a week ago Wednesday he became sick and he entered the hospital. He just The cancer showed up in his ribs and all over his body. At the end, he didn't suffer

much." A Los Angeles native, Gonzales won the U.S. national singles title in 1948 and 1949. He won eight professional singles times from 1953 to 1961 and earned doubles titles at Wimbledon and the French Open in 1949.

In 1969, as a 41-year-old grandfather, Gonzales won the longest singles match in Wimbledon history, beating Charlie Pasarell in 112 games **— 22-24**, 1-6, 16-14, 6-3, 11-9. The match, suspended because of darkness, took five hours, 12 minutes and lasted

two days.
"In the locker room, I helped Charlie get to the mas-sage table," Gonzales recal-led in a 1988 interview. Pasarell recalled Gonzales

with affection and admiration

"He had probably the best serve of all time," Pasarell said. "But his greatest asset

the match," said Pasarell, who was 24 at the time. "I walked into the locker room me, patted me on the back. threw a towel over my head and said, 'I'm sorry.'"
Gonzales was known for his

temper and competitive nature, but also for his sportsmanship and dignified bear-

body wanted to emulate."

zales said.

He beat South African Eric Sturgess to win the 1948 U.S.

#### Hideo Nomo became the first Japanese player chosen for Major League Baseball's All-Star Game as Baltimore's Cal strikeouts with 109. Ripken led fan ballotting to earn his 12th straight All-Star

Nomo, who has a 2.05

PARIS (AP) — Another year. Another world record

It's getting to be a yearly habit for the Algerian.

He set the world record for

2,000 metres Monday at the

Paris Gaz de France Grand

Track meet with a time of 4

The old record was 4:50.81

by Said Aouita of Morocco in

1987, at the last major regu-

"I know I had the world

record in my legs," Morceli said. "Last week I did 3:32

for 1,500 in St. Petersburg

(Russia) in very bad weather

Morceli now has the world

records in the 1,500 (3:28.82

in 1992), mile (3:44.30 in 1993) and 3,000 (7:25.11 in

1994) in addition to the 2,000

any of them as his favourite.

one person can be a world

champion or record holder in

any event and it takes a lot of

work to be one," Morceli

said. "It is something not

done in one or two year. It is

the work over 10 to 15

Morceli's brother Ali set

the pace of 57.06 for the first

400 metres and led through

the 800 in 1:57.06. American

Terrence Herrington took over and helped Morceli to a

"When I saw the 2:26 I

thought it was a little bit slow," Morceli said. "So I

decided to pick up the pace."

Morceli ran alone for the

last 600 and passed the 1,500

in 3:36.89 and the mile in approximately 3:54. His last 400 was 55.0.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap. He didn't rule out more

world records in the future,

although he was taking a

year-old Morceli said..

have a lot of time."

"I am still young" the 25-

practical attitude.

1,000 mark of 2:26.15.

He refused to single out

"I respect them all. Only

conditions."

lar season meet in Paris.

minutes, 47.88 seconds.

for Noureddine Morceli.

In a shorter race, Linford Christie beat Carl Lewis easily for the fourth consecutive

Christie was timed in 10.06

seconds. Davidson Ezinwa of

Nigeria was second in 10.08 with world 200 champion

Frankie Fredericks of Nami-

behind another American,

Jon Drummond, fourth in

Christie's British team-

mate, world champion and

recordholder Colin Jackson

was just third in 13.28 in the

110 hurdles. American Mark

Crear won in 13.08. Another

American, Allen Jackson,

was second in the same time.

Ethiopia failed his attempt to

recapture his 5,000 world re-

cord. He did 13 minutes, 7.81

Moses Kiptaniui of Kenya did 12:55.30 last month to

break the Ethiopian's mark

won the pole vault with 5.90

metres but world long jump recordholder Mike Powell

Ivan Pedroso of Cuba and

Powell both had 8.52-metre

(27 feet 11½ inches) jump but the Cuban won with the

better second jump of 8.37

(27-5 ½) compared to

American champion, settled

Mike Johnson the 200-400

In the 100, Lewis has a 12-5

edge over Christie but most

were gained in the 1980s.

Christie now has the Olympic

and world titles that Lewis

my time. I just ran to win,"

Christie said. "I thought it

was okay but it is up to my

coach to tell me if I did

Lewis was disappointed

"I can do better," Lewis

said. "I didn't do well out of

the blocks. I just came over-

seas and I will do better in my

for All-Star Game

anything wrong later."

with his race.

"I wasn't concerned with

once held

Powell's 8.30 (27-234).

for a 200 win in 19.92.

Sergei Bubka of Ukraine

of last year.

lost his event.

Haile Gebreselasie of

Lewis was fifth in 10.25

bia third, 10.12.

earned run average pitching his first season for the Los Angeles Dodgers, is among five first-time All-Stars on the National League staff, along with Pittsburgh's Denny Neagle, Montreal's Carlos Perez and Tyler Green and Heathcliff Slocumb of Philadelphia.

The announcement of All- .-Star line-ups came four days

Barry Bonds was the leading after Nomo pitched his second straight shut-out, a 3-0 victory over the Colorado Rockies in which he struckout 13. Nomo leads the NL in

The NL starters elected by fans included Dodgers catcher Mike Piazza, Atlanta first baseman Fred McGriff, Houston second baseman Craig Biggio, San Francisco third baseman Matt Williams and St. Louis shortstop Ozzie

Both Williams and Smith are injured, so it will be up to NL manager Felipe Alou of Montreal to choose replacement starters.

San Francisco outfielder

#### NL vote-getter. Other starting outfielders are Philadelphia's Lenny Dykstra and Atlanta's Tony Gwynn.

Lewis, now 34, has been

slowly declining. He failed to qualify for the American

team in the 100 by coming in

sixth in the national trials. He

has run a wind-aided 9.94 this

Noureddine Morceli of Algeria gives thanks for his victory

season, although coming in

third in the Texas relays race.

Marie-Jose Perec of France

had her first major battle in

the 400 hurdles and beat two

Olympic 400 champion

Orioeles shortstop Ripken, who has started every All-Star Game since 1984, and who is closing in on Lou Gherig's record of 2,130 consecutive games played, led voting in the American league and overall with 1,698,524 votes.

The closest vote was for the third AL outfield spot, with Kenny Lofton fourth, 21,822 votes behind Kirby Puckett.

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top Americans, Tonja

Buford and Kim Batten.

Perec bettered her French

record with 54.48 with

Buford second in 54.67 and

Batten third in 55.34.



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Rawdat Al-Ma'aref Schools & College hosted the external examiners hourd from the Northern Consortium in Britain, it consisted Mr. Brian Jeremiah, Dr. Alan Smith and Mr. David Murphy. The board monitored the procedures of the examination and verified the outstanding results with an overwhelming 100% success. All of the students have been accepted by the university of their choice and the subject of interest.

#### Nomo first Japanese chosen be Pancho Gonzales. He was a guy who would never give

was that if you had to beat one player for one match where everything was on it, among the players of all time, the player I would take would up. Somehow he would figure out how to win a match.

NEW YORK (AFP) "I was in tears after I lost and went into a corner. He

ing.
"He was such a fiery competitor, and he would show some temper on the court against you," Pasarell said. "But he was the idol every-

Gonzales staged another classic comeback to win his 1949 U.S. singles title in another marathon, beating top-seeded Ted Schroeder 16-18, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

"My control of matches was to penetrate, create a weakness and attack," Gon-

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one heart to two, but first bid spades, then showed heart support at the four level. North must have a very good hand as well as a single-ton club. With your primes, slam should be no worse than on a fi-

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold: +68 VK98 ◇KQJ104 ◆KJ9 

What action do you take?

A.—You have stready shown a minimum with your previous pass.

The auction, however, has improved your hand because you have a fit for both of partner's mits. To do less than compete with three

.462 VQ7 OAK984 AAQ105 The bidding has seconded The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 0 Page 1 7 Page
2 0 Page 2 7 Page

What action do you take?

A.—North's bidding does not promise more than a minimum rebetter then minimum and your heart queen is a golden card. Since Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: \$10652 VKJ1084 \A87 \$5

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# Q.I.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: 9443 VB85 OK1654 \$A72 - The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1.4 Db1 7

1 & Dbl ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Had East passed instead of making a takeout double you would a have had to respond either two epades or one no trump, and our vote goes to the former. You should take the same action now, except that the raise to two spades now has the added advantage of its pressuptive value.

What do you bid now? A.—It is tempting to bid three no trump, but you have already prous-sed a balanced minimum with a diamond stopper. We prefer a bid of three bearts to highlight the quality

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

48 VAK1084 01063 4AQ93 The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
10 Pass 17 Pass
4 Pass 3 NT Pass
4 Pass 7
What action do you take?

A.—If you think partner is hidding out of weakness, take another look at the suction. North did not raise

# GOREN BRIDGE

dding has proceeded:
South West North
Page 2 + Page
7 Page ?
What action do yen take?
A.—Since the opponents auction has died at the two-level, you can

# Israelis, Palestinians sign to share Jerusalem

(Agencies) - Israelis and Palestinians launched a campaign Tuesday to make "Our Jerusalem" the capital of two states living side by side in peace.

Four hundred public figuers. artists, intellectuals. lawyers and journalists have signed the foundation statement in direct opposition to Israeli government policy. 'Our Jerusalem is a mosaic

of all the cultures, all the religions and all the periods that enriched the city." read the statement, issued at a press conference.

"Our Jerusalem must be united, open to all and belonging to all its inhabitants, without borders and barbed-

Our Jerusalem must be the capital of the two states that will live side by side in this country - West Jerusalem the capital of the State of Israel and East Jerusalem the capital of the State of Palestine.

Former left-wing deputy and peace activist Uri Avneri explained: "The idea of this is that we are going to break the taboo on discussing the future of Jerusalem.

We believe and the majority of Israelis believe that there will be no peace without a compromise on Jerusalem.

We are going to organise in September an international conference on the subject of 5.000 years of Jerusalem." The aim was to counter an

NEW DELHI (AFP) - For-

mer Asian "Biscuit King"

Rajan Pillai, who faces up to

tival later this year designed to reinforce the Jewish character of the city.

Faisal Husseini, the unofficial Palestinian minister for the Holy City, signed the petition and looked forward to the day when Jerusalem could be seen as the capital of the Middle East.

'This document clearly states that when I say Jerusalem is ours, it means both us and them, and when they say it is theirs, it means the same thing," explained Mr. Husseini.

The Israeli government has pledged to negotiate the future of the city as part of final status talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) by May 1996.

On Monday, Israeli police arrested three Palestinian guards at the Orient House after scuffles outside the PLO's headquarters in East Jerusalem, police said.

They said one of the guards was accused of attacking a right-wing Israeli activist as he filmed the building and then of slightly injuring a border guard who tried to

separate them. The three Palestinians were detained to identify the

assailant. Witnesses said earlier that bodyguards stopped an

armed Jewish settler from attacking Mr. Husseini. They intervened when the man lunged at Mr. Husseini. shouting, "You're a killer, you're a terrorist."

come out of the PLO offices to talk to police who were hunting for the suspect who tried to assault a border

guard. The settler, who was not identified or arrested was among a group of Israeli extremists who have set up a tent near the Orient House as part of a campaign to close down the Palestinian repre-

sentation in the Holy City.

The French consul general

in East Jerusalem, met Tuesday morning with Mr. Husseini at the Orient House. During the meeting, a message from Mr. Alain Juppe, the French prime minister

was delivered to Mr. Hus-

Mr. Husseini emphasised the need for medical assistance to Palestinian hospitalis in Jerusalem, and for focusing on specialisation in various medical fields through technical and academic assistance to these hospitals. The French diplomat promised to relay Mr. Husseini's request to his government to study it. an Orient House statement

The consul generals of Spain and Greece also visited the Orient House and met with Mr. Husseini. The diplomats discussed bilateral relations and current political developments, particularly the delay in implementing the redeployment agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, and the prisoners' hunger-strike.



VICTORY: British Prime Minister John Major, with his wife Norma on his side, addresses a press conference outside 10 Downing Street in London on Tuesday after winning a challenge to his leadership of the Conservative Party. Mr.

nced that he would remain prime minister until the next elections and that he was planning a cabinet reshuffle on Wednesday (see page one) (Reuter photo)

#### Pope rejects sanctions on Iraqis events in Iraq very closely," concerns."

Speaking of the "innocent

victims of suffering" in Iraq.

especially women and chil-

dren, he said: "Be assured

that His Holiness prays for

the peoples of Iraq and that

this gathering may be fruit-

Chaldean church, Monsignor

Mohammad Salah, urged the

conference to "take action to

alleviate the suffering of the

He said Christianity "sup-

to condemn it."

Iragi people

he added.

BAGHDAD (AFP) - The Vatican is opposed to economic sanctions when they punish innocent people in Iraq, an envoy of Pope John Paul Il told Christian clercis at a conference here Tuesday.

"The consistent position of the Holy See has been that such measures should be temporary and always accompanied by dialogue, that they should not be a means of war nor of punishment of a reople." Cardinal Edward Cassidy said.

Cardinal Cassidy joined clerics from 30 countries for the opening of a three-day conference partly aimed at seeking an end to the international sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of

He called for a "control of the humanitarian consequences of such sanctions so that they can be corrected "The Holy Father follows

reported on Tuesday.

day. APS said.

terrorist courts.

rights activists.

The criminal court in the

eastern town of Tebessa sent-

enced the 20 men at two

hearings held behind closed

door on Saturday and Sun-

The sentences brought to

more than 70 the number of

militants sentenced to death

in absentia since February

when the Algerian govern-

ment scrapped special anti-

set up in 1993 to streamine

trials of those captured in the

battle pitting armed Muslim

militants against security

Oran and Constantine, con-

demned more than 1,000

militants to death, mostly in

absentia, and drew enticism

from lawyers and buman

have been killed in Algeria's

More than 30.000 people

Those courts, in Algiers,

Three special counts were

ported peace, love and respect for others" even though the United States and Britain, who "claim to belong" to this religion, "put their

The delegates were to meet senior traqi officials and visit hospitals,

Entitled "The Church in the Service of Peace and Humanity," the conference is aimed at "reaffirming Christian solidarity with the Iraqi people," one organiser said.

The patriarch of Iraq's Also taking part in the Raphael Bidawid, said the conference are delegates form the Cyprus-based Mid-dle East Council of Churembargo is an "unjust and unprecedented measure" and ches. The conference is orgaurged Christians to "speak up nised by Iraqi churches and the Ministry of Religious Iraq's minister of religious Affairs. affairs. Abdul Monem

Around one million of Irag's 18 million people are Christians.

Under U.N. resolutions passed after the 1991 Gulf war to liberate Kuwait, Iraq must dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and abide by long-term monitoring before the oil embargo can be

#### interests above humanitarian 20 sentenced to death in Algeria

change was needed and that is what happened," The local press widely commented Sunday about Mr. Meziane-Cherif's ouster,

accord to end the bloody civi war and amid preparations for the presidential poll. The National Liberation Front, which previously was the sole political party in Algeria, on Tuesday also cal-

much of the unrest. Mr. Meziane-Cherif. named to the post in April 1994, took a hardline stand against extremists, saying in a recent interview with the French newspaper Le Journal

But he also hinted in that interview that the people's decision would be respected in presidential elections Mr. Zeroual has vowed to hold by the end of the year, even if

## Lethal device found in Tokyo subway

TOKYO (AP) - A device that could have released lethal gas was found in a Tokyo subway station at rush hour Tuesday evening, but no one was hurt, police said. Passengers were evacuated, with some initial disorder, but the device, found by a cleaning woman, was

work, officers said. Police said they were treating it as a case of attempting murder, but there was no immediate link with the doomsday cult accused in the nerve gas attack that killed 12 people and sickened 5,500 others in Tokyo's subways in March.

Kyodo News Service said the amount of the chemicals found in the device could kill about 8,800 people if they were combined.

Passengers were told: 'Please get out right away as a time bomb is set in this

station. About four hours later. mysterious fames were reported at a toilet in Tokyo's central railway station, and three people complained of teary eyes, police and fire officials said. Their condition was not immediately known. The Tokyo area has been hit by a series of similar cases in recent months. No serious injuries have been reported. and the source of the fumes

has remained unexplained. The gas device was found in a woman's toilet at the Kayabacho subway station by a cleaning woman who put it in her trash bag and reported to police, said a police offi-

He said a timer was set to cut open and mix two viny! bags of chemicals -- one containing 1,500 gramme of liquid, possibly sulfuric acid, and the other 900 grammes of hydrocyanic acid sodium

# counterparts when it comes

to pulling a trigger. Three women assigned to an emergency unit in Kowloon West were the first to pack service revolvers, police said in a statement, and they will be followed by another 19 in the territory in a week's time. Still more will join them in the coming months, as shooting becomes part of the regular training of a policewomen, under a pilot scheme that could see all female officers armed next year. 'The women at the Police Training School are undergoing the same training as the men and so far we have identified only minor problems which have been overcome with proper training," Assistant Commissioner for Training Denis Shackleton said. "For example, some women had difficulty in pulling the trigger with one finger — but this is also a problem for some male officers and is overcome by simple streng-thening exercises," he said. Policemen in Hong Kong have frequently drawn their guns and opened fire, sometimes on crowded streets, as a growing number of criminals. particularly jewelry shop robbers, arm themselves with pistols smuggled from China. Women make up 11 per cent of the 27,500 officers in the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, the world's biggest

#### Judge jalis removed before it could robber arrested by accomplice

urban police department.

LONDON (R) - A British

judge jailed for 2-1/2 years a betting shop robber who was arrested by his accomplice who had a change of heart during the raid. Describing the case as "very bizarre, Judge Jeffrey Rucker said Michael Smith, 30, robbed the same betting shop in East London twice within 24 hours. The second time his partner, who was not named, took exception to Smith's violent behaviour in the Terrifie handed over £760 (\$1,212) to Mr. Smith, who the judge said was "running on a very rich mixture of alcohol and cocaine," when his partner suddenly got him in a headlock until police arrived. "He effectively ended up arresting you and so ended your short spree of robbery," the judge said. He added for "opvious reasons" the second had not been charged.

#### Prince Andrew to visit Gibraitar

GIBRALTAR (AFP) -Prince Andrew, second son of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, will make an official visit to Gibraltar later this month, officials said. The officials said the exact timing of Prince Andrew's visit had not been decided but it would coincide with ceremonies due July 13 to mark the end of World War II. Prince Andrew's last visit to Gibraltar, a tiny colony ceded to Britain by Spain in 1713, was in October 1993 when the Royal Navy minesweeper he commanded made a maintenance stop at the port.

#### 'French are back on the bottle'

PARIS (AFP) — A longterm decline in wine consumption in France appears to have been halted, and drinkers may at last be returning to the traditional national tipple, according to a study. Between 1980 and 1990) the number of French drinkers abstaining completely from wine rocketed from 23 to 36 per cent, leading to fears that the country was giving in to pressures from its European neighbours, many of whom prefer beer. But over the last five years the number of non-wine drinkers has levelled off at around 35 per cent, while the number of habitual drinkers has stopped falling and occasional tipplers are up 15 per cent. The number of people drinking every day, which had dropped from 41 per cent to 23 per cent from 1980 to 1990, has now stabilised at about 22 per cent, it said.

#### hears trials related to international extradition cases. "The hearing will reopen

14 years in prison in Singacore for fraud, was jailed here on Tuesday ahead of a legal battle over his extradi-Mr. Pillai, 47, who was

Asian 'Biscuit King'

arrested at a five-star hotel in the capital late Monday, was led away to New Delhi's maximum-security Tihar prison after a special magistrate remanded him to judicial custody for a day.

A spokesman for the Central Bureau of Investigation

NEWS IN

Lebanon bans speedboats, jetskis from shore

banned jetskis and speedboats from skirting the Lebanese

coast after the deaths of three fishermen in a month,

newspapers reported Tuesday. Mr. Meskawi on Monday

ordered that jetskis and speedboats stay 300 metres away

from the coast. Users of jetskis, one of the latest fads to hit

Lebanese waters, must be over 18, but those over 14 can

also hire them with written permission from their parents.

Beach clubs which rent jetskis must ensure they are

equipped with safety devices, keep a register of clients

names and when they hired the machines. Fisherman

Abdullah Itani, a father of five, was killed on Sunday by a

speedboat while laying nets off the Beirut coast. The boat's

captain failed to stop to help, sparking indignations.

Iran: Afghan war on offence against Islam

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's leader Avatollah Ali Khamenei

has slammed the civil war in Afghanistan as an offence

against Islam and urged Shiite Muslims there to keep out of

the fighting. "The civil war or fighting between political,

ethnic or religious Afghan factions is haram and must end."

he said in a message to the Afghan people, state radio

reported Tuesday. He added "the Shiites and all the

Afghans of all tendencies and allegiances must no longer

clash." The message was read out Monday in a Kabul

mosque by an envoy sent by Ayatollah Khamenei, the

radio said. He accused "foreign parties" without naming

them of being behind the civil war and called on the various

Afghan factions to "put aside their" political differences.

Turkmen president in Iran to discuss pipeline

TEHRAN (AFP) - Turkmenistan's President Saparmur-

ad Niazov arrived here Tuesday to promote the construc-

tion of a pipeline to transport natural gas from his country

to Europe via Iran, the official IRNA news agency said.

"Iran and Turkmenistan will exchange views on this

project," Mr. Niazov said on arrival at Tehran airport

where he was met by President Ali Akbar Hashemi

Rafsanjani. Mr. Niazov added that his country was

"firmly" determined to realise this project and expressed the hope hat the pipeline would be completed in two years.

The president of the former Soviet republic also tried to

squash rumours that Turkmenistan had come under "fore-

ign pressure to abandon" the project with Iran, IRNA said.

The Iranian president said the two heads of state would

also discuss issues concerning the Commonwealth of

Independent States - made up of the former Soviet

Dehre warns Muslims must respect French laws

PARIS (AFP) - French Interior Minister Jean-Louis

Debre on Tuesday welcomed Islam as France's second

religion, but warned that its followers must obey French

laws and customs if they wished to join a united Muslim

community. The new minister, meeting Islamic leaders

following his appointment to the new French Muslim

council to unite Muslim factions. He said he hoped the

council "will be as broad as possible, and open to all

Islamic groups." He was speaking at the main Paris mosque

where he held talks with its reactor Dalil Boubakeur, Mr.

Boubakeur established the council amid concern among

authorities of factionalisation and growing militantism

within France's substantial Muslim community. Mr. Debre

stressed his support for the council, but added: "Only those

who respect the laws of the republic and who practise

tolerance, respect for others ... can be linked with you in

this great task of unity. "That is the French tradition in

cultural matters.

BEIRUT (AFP) — Tourism Minister Omar Meskav

(CBI) said Mr. Pillai would be produced again Wednesday in the court of Special Magistrate M.I. Mehta, who

tomorrow, although the ultimate decision on his extradition rests with the government," spokesman S.M. Khan said

He added that Mr. Pillai. who fled to India nearly three months ago following his conviction on fraud charge in Singapore, had been arrested in a raid by CBI agents on a

BRIEF

luxury hotel about midnight Monday. CBI launched a country-

arrested

wide hunt for Mr. Pillai on behalf of Interpol after his bail was cancelled by an Indian court on June 22. Mr. Khan said, adding that the fugitive had registered in the hotel under an assumed

"This was one of the most important operations undertaken by the Interpol in India in recent times," the spokesman said. CBI represents the international police organisation in the country.

## .Iournalist says PLO held Israeli

soldiers OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Jordanian journalist claimed Tuesday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) held captured and still-missing Israeli soldiers in Lebanon in the

Haroup Mahemid, a former reporter for Jordan Television, said he visited the stronghold of PLO mintary commander Khalil Al Wazir, or Abu Jihad, in Lebanon in 1982 and ate and played cards with four Israeli soldiers.

The PLO denied any knowledge of the fate of six Israeli soldiers who went missing in Lebanon in the 1980s. and Israeli officials believed they were captured by non-PLO factions or Islamic fundamentalist groups.

Despite the absence of conclusive evidence, families of the missing Israelis have long claimed they were alive and that the government was not doing enough to press the PLO, now a partner in peace talks, for information,

Mr. Mahemid said Abu Jihad was holding two groups of Israeli soldiers near the Lebanese town of Zahle. He could only identify one soldier, American-born Zacharv Baumel, who disappeared in 1982 during a tank battle in southern Lebanon. He said he interviewed the soldier in 1983 and found him to be in good condition.

Baumei's father Yonah who appeared at a news conference with Mr. Mahemid on Tuesday — said he had 'new information" that his son was alive a few months. ago. He would not give more details.

The PLO gave half of Baumel's identification tag to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1993, but never publicly explained how it was obtained.

Mr. Mahemid said the soldiers were in PLO custody until 1986, when he lost track of them. He said he believes they may have been killed or captured by pro-Syrian fac-

PLO officials did not immediately return phone calls on Tuesday from the Associ-

PARIS (Agencies) — An backed authorities in January Algerian court was conde-1992 scrapped a general election which the country's Islamned 20 Muslim militant fugitives to death for murder. mic Salvation Front (FIS) sabotage and membership of was poised to win. armed groups, the official Algerian news agency APS

Sifi: No reshuffle

Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi has ruled out a government reshuffle prior to the presidential elections, as demanded by several parties. according to an interview published this week in the weekly La Tribune.

"A government reshuffle or changing any cabinet members is out of the question today," he told the weekly. "This government must give way to another as soon as a president is

His comments was in reaction to demands by several parties for a "neutral" govcroment to replace the current military-backed one pending the outcome of the circtions to be held by the end of the year.

Mr Sifi, commenting about the weekend ouster of his interior minister. Abdul Rahmane Meziane-Cherif.

which came at a time when the outlawed FIS and the government are close to an

led on all groups in the country to renounce violence, while blaming authorities for

du Dimanche. "We intend to dig the grave of fundamental-

#### civil strife since the armywould only say that "a evanide. Centrists in force, IAF lukewarm and leftists trying luck in municipal polls

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Centrists are heading the vious for the first general municipal elections in the history of the Kingdom. Islamists want to keep a low profile. Leftists say they will try their luck.

Spokesperson of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) purty, Hamzeh Mansour said the party would only have partial participation. The party, he said, had

delegated the decisionmaking authority to committees in the governorates and municipalities. While the presidence in Amman took a decision to participate in the elections, some IAF committees decided to boycett the elections in protest against "government's continuous interference, that have harmed the democratic process in the country," he said Mr. Mansour said the front

would seek ensure the success of IAF candidates but "we cannot possibly field candidates to 259 councils."

He asserted that Islamists had always been successful in municipal elections, but they will not take an effective part this year. Mr. Mansour, however,

ruled out the possibility of LAF poycotting the elections or any other elections in the country. "We weighed it up and we

found that our participation is better than nothing," he said. "The amount of corruption is considerably lesser when we are present than during our absence."

The July 11 elections are the first of its kind in the country after the enactment of a mucicipalities law in 1994. The law allows free electrons all ever the Kingdom, stipulates the appointment of the mayor of Amman and 31 out of the 40-member Amman council by the government. The remaining 20 members are elected by the

The final list of candidates for the 259 councils will be clear on Thursday, but the general atmosphere in the

respective governorates show that there is a considerable lack of enthusiasm. There is a general indifference to the elections although political parties and politicians agree on their importance. "Political forces did not do

their homework," said Tayseer Zibri, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party. "They left everything to the last mi-In Mr. Zibri's opinion.

political parties should have unified their efforts to achieve good results long time ago. But they all left attempts for unifications and coalitions to the forces in the constitutencies, he said, Leftist and Islamists, who

have joined hands and efforts to fight normalisation of ties with Israel, are working separately now.

"Municipal elections are of paramount importance on all levels, but there is a considerable lack of interest in this polls," he said, "The fact that half of Ammun's council's members are appointed by

the government adds to thisindifference.

Ya'coub Zayadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party, said: There will be no coalition with parties but we will try to take an effective part in the elections.

The Communist Party is fielding 19 candidates, four of them women

Abdullah Jazi, head of the elections committee of Al And Party, refused to release the number of candidates the party is fielding, but said he was confident of their suc-

Mr. Jazi said the party would make coalitions with centrist, national forces and independents to field "the right candidates to the right post." He said Al Ahd have candidates in most of the councils.

"The municipal elections are very important to us, "he said. "Although it is the first time for us as a party. I'm sure that the solits would be highly ~ nitive."

HONG KONG (AFP) -

Policewomen in Hong Kong

began toting guns on duty

Tuesday, now that their su-

periors have decided that

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weaker than those of male

Hong Kong policewomen

pack guns

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